

## Introducing



#### 1) Health

- a viable solution to speech impairment/impediment
- allows the blind to write documents and programs

#### 2) Education

- an excellent tool for teaching the relationship between the written and the spoken word
- a valuable aid to those assisting the dyslexic or for students with reading problems
- an amazing new method for teaching or learning the translation of one language to another
- touch typing made easy with keyboard echo

#### 3) Industry

- enables verbal output of readings/warnings from independent peripherals. (BUS, IEEE, RS232 etc)
  can be used to give instructions to an operator
- could be set up as an answerphone or entryphone

#### Entertainment

- allows the user to verbally list programs while checking them
- against a hardcopy listing

   can be made to hum musical tunes
- provides a whole new dimension to computer games

#### **Hardware Features**

#### RS232C, Selectable baud rate, DCE or DTE

- will operate on any computer with an RS232 port
- at any standard baud rate
- does not tie up the expansion port

#### Three adjustable presets:

allows adjustment of Volume, Pitch and Pitch range (16 levels)

#### Black Eurocard enclosure, QL plug, power lead, socket and serial cable

- simply plugs in between your power supply and QL
   maintains the integrity of your computer system
  - (Note. CST Thor version is powered through the serial lead)

#### **Software Features**

#### Full 68000 Text To Speech software incorporating 16 levels of pitch.

- lightning fast conversion of any string into speech
- any multi syllable word may be split, with different syllables spoken at differing levels of pitch, allowing intonation
   20K of code. Will work on standard (128K) machine and Thor

#### **Built in Exception Table (BET)**

certain words defy all logic and no amount of rules can cater for these. Therefore, their pronounciation has been permanently set in an exception table. eg 'thorough', 'ghoti', 'Lbytes', 'flp1'

#### Size selectable User Exception Table (UET)

 Users can set up their own table of any size and fill it with their own words/pronounciations. This overrides words in the built in table therefore allowing translation of languages. This table can be saved and reloaded for later use.

#### Over 400 rules to convert text to speech.

 If the word or string is not found in either table it will be pronounced via a sophisticated set of rules.

#### Full Device driver implementation.

- a new device called 'QTK' is added to the QL's list of devices. This means that you can use all of the built in basic keywords to send information to QTALK. eg PRINT, LIST, DIR, COPY etc. and also use QTALK with other computer languages (PASCAL, FORTRAN etc)
- a set of clever superbasic extensions is also included to make QTALK a breeze to use
- may be set to pronounce or ignore punctuation

#### Multitasking screen editor

- can be called up any time to set up and add, alter or delete words from the User exception table. Comprehensive on screen help.
   Hopefully the last word in QL clocks talking time and date

Many more thoroughly documented features

#### **ALIEN HIJACK**

The year is 2003 and you are working on the S.P.C. Forward, as ship's engineer. On the 23rd day you are attacked by an alien space ship and all hell breaks loose. You must regain control of your ship, against some mighty tough opposition.

The first TALKING game for the Sinclair QL. Possibly the most amazing QL graphics seen to date

- 3D graphics Full 68000 code
- · fast, dynamic, challenging
- talking hero and aliens 192 colour screens

Note. Alien Hijack does not require QTALK to run but it certainly makes it a lot more fun. Works on a 128K QL.





PRICE Alien Hijack VAT

£ 2.25 £ 1.00 Post/Packaging Total £18.25

£15.00

**PUZZLE MANIA** 

Your mission, should you decide to accept, is to journey about the danger ridden cells of Maniaville to retrieve the lost loot of Lawless Lenny. Several obstacles will attempt to thwart your progress and only the smartest gamer will survive.

- The second TALKING game for the Sinclair QL

   full 68000 code 40 colour screens fast, arcade action

   spoken clues to help you win (if you are good enough)

   almost impossible to beat a really addictive challenge

Note. Puzzle Mania can operate without QTALK but is much more fun with it.







PRICE Puzzle Mania

£10.00 Post/Packaging £ 1.00 £12.50

Special Introductory Offer Buy QTALK, PUZZLE MANIA and ALIEN HIJACK and receive £5.00 discount pre VAT total (offer closes 31st Nov 1987)

Name	SQLW11
Address	
Please rush me	
for my <b>QL/THOR</b> (cross out one which does not apply with software on 3½" <b>disc/mdv</b> (cross out one which co	/) does not apply)
I enclose a <b>bank cheque</b> for £ or please debit my <b>Access/Visa card</b> (cross out one wapply)	hich does not
Card number	
Expiry dateSignature	

I appreciate that no funds will be deposited until despatch of goods. Please allow up to 21 days for delivery (airmail).

### Maxtronics R&D Ltd

#### **ORDERS TO:**

CHI — SOFT: 20 Chandos Way, Welgarth Road, Hampstead, London NW11 7HF, Great Britain. Telephone (01) 458-7249.

Maxtronics R & D Ltd: 26A Conway Street, Christchurch 2, New Zealand. Telephone (64-3) 325-546



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WORLD — 1987

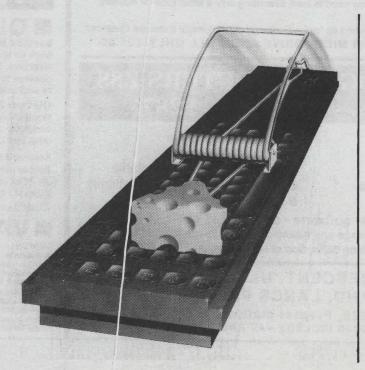
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#### **NEXT MONTH**

#### ROMs & EPROMs

There is plenty of ROM-based software for the QL. New products give the option of multiple ROMs or downloading the appropriate software from a disc. We examine the market, giving details of availability, compatability and, above all, usefulness.

#### **PSION REVISION**

First there was version one of Quill, Archive and such. One problem was that they did not work, or certainly not properly. Version followed version but are the upgrades really worth having? Simon Goodwin reports on Psion programs up to version 2.38 and also looks at Archive, runtime Archive and Arch-dev.

# SECTOR SOFTWARE

0772 454328

## SPELL BOUND

REAL TIME spelling checker for Quill or 17he Editor V1.17 onwards on the expanded Sinclair QL.

Spell Bound checks input by the character against its 30,000+ word dictionary. It has 5 switchable modes of operation to suit a variety of typing styles with the dictionary available at all times. Spell Bound displays examples words on request and operate s with no discernable reduction in the operating speed of Quill. 1 he dictionary is fully user expandable to memory/media limits.

Available on disc or Microdrive at only £29.95

## TASK MASTER

#### THE ULTIMATE

- NOT JUST another multi tasking program, but a complete front end memory management system for the expanded Sinclair QL.
- ON SCREEN CALCULATOR with many features including delta percent age mark up.
- POWERFUL FILE MAINTENANCE of discs and Microdrives.
- NOTEPAD with word wrap and 'send note' feature.
- SOFTWARE RESET scans for, and warns of any vulnerable open files at c lose down.
- SERIAL PRINTER BUFFER user configurable up to 32K
- DUPLICATE CODE SHARING allows multiple copies of the same program without losing memory to additional code space e.g. 12 copies of Abacus with 230K free.
- COMMAND FILE MODULE easily creates files which will operate the machine in your absence. For example it could load quill, fill in your address, type a standard leatter and print it.. You will, however, have to post it yourself.
- TASKMASTER does not consume vast amounts of memory. If you wish only to use the multi tasking module, that is all you need to load, thus using only a small slice of memory. The choice is always yours
- OUSER FRIENDLY. It was described as "virtually idiot proof" by a major software reviewer AVAILABLE ON DISC OR MICRODRIVE AND STILL ONLY £25.00

#### CAMBRIDGE COMPUTERS

eks Z88

- from Sir Clive Sinclair

- Built in screen
- Full size keyboard
- Built in word processor
- spreadsheet and database
- 32K RAM

- Diary and Calculator
- Comms software
- All Z88 accessories available
- Runs for 20 hrs on 4 AA b atteries
- Many more features
- QZ QL Z88 file transfer software £15 (QI-Z88 cable £8)

Allows you to use the QL for storage and editing of files, or to use the Z88 as a portable data terminal. Available on 3.5in. disc or Microdrive

39 WRAY CRESCENT, ULNES WALTON, LEYLAND, LANCS PR5 3NA

Tel: 0772 454328, Prestel mailbox 772454328
ALL PRICES INCLUDE VAT AND P & P



#### TOUCH TYPIST

Don't even think about buying a replacement keyboard until you know how to use the one you already have. Why type slowly when you can be typing at professional speeds. Touch Typist is the fastest typing tutor available for the Sinclair QL. It will teach you to type at up to 211 wpm. It is 100% machine code and has:

- 3 teaching modes
- adjustable speed and accuracy targets
- very fast interactive keyboard
- results display graphs

The full lesson editor will allow you to customise any or all of the 200 lessons which can then be saved to create a library of custom lesson sets. Touch typist will run from disc, Microdrive or ramdisc. Available on disc or Microdrive for only £12

"Succeeding admirably as a serious course intended for beginners and experienced typists alike...includes the professional polish of good quality software" - QL World

#### SOFTWARE

Touch Typist	£12.00	Toolkit 2 (EPROM)	£34.00
Task Master	£25.00	TechniQL	£49.00
Spellbound	£29.95	Media Manager	£40.00
Turbo Quill+	£14.00	Front Page	£23.00
Turbo Quill	£12.00	Scrabble	£15.00
Cartridge Doctor	£13.00	Keydefine	£10.00
Eye Q	£29.00	Talent Workbench	\$25.00
Turbo	299.00	Supercharge	£49.00
The Editor (DP)	£30.00	Psion Chess	£17.00
Project Planner	£30.00	Better Basic (DP)	£20.00
Forth	£34.00	Home Finance	£20.00

## Coming soon FLASHBACK

#### QL SPARES

Service Manual - This is the most up to date book for repairing the QL. It contains all circuit diagrams, faultfinding charts and oscilloscope displays to enable you to repair your own QL or understand how it works

£25.00

QL Test Software - Including RS232 loopback lead. Tests all major functions of the computer- sound, colour, keys, RS232, Microdrive etc. Used by repair companies - £14.00

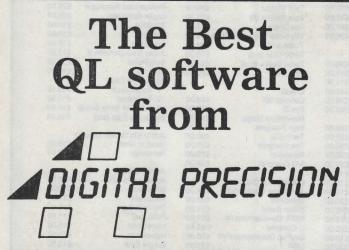
Keyboard membrane	£6.00
Bubble mat	£3.00
JS ROM set	£28.00
ZX8301 ULA	£12.00
ZX8302 ULA	£13.00

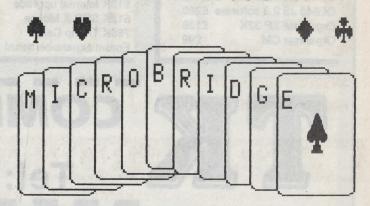
#### ■ VARIOUS

Trump Card	£195.00
QL dustcover	£5.00
Microdive labels on tractor feed per 100	£3.50
20 Microdrives in Transform storage box	£39.00
Internal 640K memory upgrade	£99.00
Miracle autodial modern	£45.00
Astracom 1000 modem	£199.00
Microvitec 1451DQ3 dedicated monitor	£260.00
(Superb graphic display)	
Parallel printer interface	£19.50

## The Power Behind The Button

TURBO "Second to none . . . excellent . . nothing can match it . . . takes Super BASIC & the QL into a new era" DESKTOP PUBLISHER "A very very impressive system . . . in a league of its own . will not make the coffee, but they are working on PROFESSIONAL ASTROLOGER "Descriptions such as superb, ultimate, excellent are barely adequate, a classic . . . the best of them all . . . the comprehensive ever produced" SUPERCHARGE "A runaway success QLiberator lacks Supercharge's finer features" MEDIA MANAGER "has every possible facility . . a world beater" EDITOR "Superb ... positively scintillates . . . a joy to use . . . DP's best program" SUPERFORTH "The definitive FORTH . . . excellent ... very fast" EYE-Q "Brilliant ... powerful ... superb ... monumental ... the best graph package ... the last word" TURBO TOOLK TOOLKIT "Excellent .. comprehensive" GENERATOR "Excellent ... invaluable" SUPER ASTROLOGER "Excellent strongly recommended" BETTER BASIC "Intelligent stars" excellent absolute must excellent ... an absolute must 5 stars" BACKGAMMON "Brilliant" DROIDZONE "Mindnumbing" BLOCKLANDS "Addictive" ARCADIA "We flipped over it"





MICROBRIDGE is a Contract Bridge tutor and playing program. It provides a new and exciting method of learning and practising bridge. Alternatively, it can be used purely for entertainment. Short of three intelligent players? Never again! MICROBRIDGE teaches bidding by a series of lessons and examples, and provides a virtually unlimited number (in the millions!) of randomly generated deals for further practice. MICROBRIDGE constructs detailed commentary on all these deals, showing (if you wish) the method for arriving at every bid. It also sets out what inference is to be drawn from each bid by the other players. The program is hence able to reproduce the thought processes of a very strong bridge player during bidding.

You are allowed to make any legal bid, of course — MICROBRIDGE may then comment on it. Alternatively, the program will bid for you and/or for your partner should you so wish. When you arrive at a contract, you take over as declarer and play the hand through. The computer will then play the hidden hands and will do its best to defeat the contract!

MICROBRIDGE knows the ACOL system, and follows the Stayman and Blackwood conventions. The manual that is supplied is both comprehensive and instructive; it does assume a knowledge of the basic rules of Bridge.

MICROBRIDGE will run on any QL with at least 256k RAM expansion and a disk drive.

MICROBRIDGE costs £34.95 complete.

#### ORDER FORM

To: DP, 222 The Avenue, London E4 9SE (or use the Credit Card hotline 01-527 5493)

000000000000000000000000000000000000000	SPECIAL DESKTOP PUBLISHER + SPECIAL EDITOR + EYE-Q \$139.5 SPECIAL DESKTOP PUBLISHER + SPECIAL EDITOR \$119.5 SPECIAL DESKTOP PUBLISHER + SPECIAL EDITOR \$119.5 SPECIAL DESKTOP PUBLISHER (MIN 512K QL + DISK DRIVE) \$79.5 TURBO BASIC COMPILER SPECIAL EDITION V2.0 + TOOLKIT \$99.5 PROFESSIONAL ASTROLOGER WITH ASTRONOMER V1.5 \$69.5 PROFESSIONAL ASTROLOGER WITH ASTRONOMER V1.5 \$69.5 ORDINARY DESKTOP PUBLISHER (MIN 256K QL) \$69.5 SUPERCHARGE V1.19 BASIC COMPILER \$49.5 SUPER MEDIA MANAGER V1.12 \$39.5 THE EDITOR SPECIAL EDITION V2.0 (EXPANDED QL) \$49.5 SUPERFORTH WITH REVERSI V2.0 \$39.5 SYE-Q (MOUSE VERSION) V2.1 \$34.5 MICROBRIDGE \$34.5 EYE-Q V2.1 GRAPHICS SYSTEM \$29.5 SUPER SPRITE GENERATOR V4.0 \$29.5 TURBO TOOLKIT V2.0 \$29.5 THE EDITOR V1.17 \$29.5  UK delivery costs are all-inclusive, Europe and 5%, elsewhere 10% to cover airmail costs. Program upgrades can be obtained by sending us the original cartridge (NOT the packaging	955	ARCADIA  DELUXE ATARI-/ST TYPE QL MOUSE  GIGASOUND 3 CHANNEL SOUND BOARD  TRUMPCARD 896K(!!) INTERFACE WITH RAMDISK, TOO  DP SOFTWARE  AS ABOVE, WITH DUAL NEC DSDD 3½" DRIVES  TOO Trade in allowance on 512k Sandy SuperQboard  schange offers on other hardware)  ALL 5 DIGITAL PRECISION GAMES  SPELLING CHECKER FOR EDITOR + QUILL  CHEAP CARTRIDGES - BATCH OF 20, BOUGHT AT THE	\$24.95 \$24.95 \$219.95 \$119.95 \$218.95 \$219.95 \$29.95 \$29.95 \$29.95 \$29.95 \$29.95 \$29.95 \$29.95 \$29.95 \$404.95 \$1 - Phone for part \$239.95 \$29.95 \$29.95
	documentation) plus £10 (£12 Europe, £15 elsewhere).		AS DP SOFTWARE	£25.00
Na	ame:	Addr	ess:	
	Po			
	☐ Cheque/Cash/PO ☐ Access/Mastercard		☐ Visa/Trustcard/Barclaycard for	
Ca	ard Number: Expiry Date:		Cartridge	3½" disk
				SQL11

#### COMPUTERS

QL JS 2.3 software £169 QL640 JS 2.3 software £260 Organiser XP 32K £138 Organiser CM £99

#### **EXPANSION BOARDS**

512K Miracle Expanderam	£99	
512K Internal upgrade	£94	
512K SQB & Mouse	£287	
768K Trump Card	£199	
Eprom expansion board	£68	

#### MONITORS

Philips 7502 + lead green
Philips 7522 + lead amber
Philips monitor stand
Microvitec DQ3 colour
Microvitec tilt/swivel stand
£18.00
£260.00
£260.00



## COMPUTERWARE

the QL stockist Tel: 0303-81-2801

#### **DISC SYSTEMS**

DIOC OI DIEITIO	
Dual 3.5 in. + Trump Card	£350.00
Single D/D 3.5in. drive	£125.00
Single D/D 3.5 in. & 0K SQB	£225.00
Dual D/D 3.5 in drive	£209.00
Dual D/D 3.5 in. & i/face	£295.00
Dual 3.5 in. & 512K SQB	£350.00
Cumana disc interface	£ 86.25
768K Trump Card	£199.00

#### SPARES

OI / IIILE	
JS ROM sets	£27.50
Keyboard membrane	£6.25
Keyboard bubble mat	£3.85
ULA ZX 8301	£9.50
ULA ZX 8302	£10.25
MAB 8049	£7.50
CPU 68008	£25.80
M/drive assemblies- complete	£27.50
Voltage regulator (high output)	£4.75
Power supply UK	£23.50
Power supply European	£25.50

#### SUNDRIES

0011011100	
10 Microdrive cartridges	£17.50
Cartridge storage box	£5.50
QL Dustcover	£5.00
Psion 2.3 sets	£10.00
Psion 2.35 sets	£20.00
Eprom Programmer	£129.00
Battery clock kits	£19.50
10 DS/DD discs 3.5"	£18.50
10 DS/DD disks 3.5"	
(branded)	£31.50
Centronics Interface	£19.50

#### SOFTWARE

Susiness   Flashback   phone   Element   Susper   Suspe	000000000000000000000000000000000000000
Cash Trader (PDQL)	000000000000000000000000000000000000000
Cash Trader + Analyser	000000000000000000000000000000000000000
Decision Maker	000000000000000000000000000000000000000
Entrepreneur £35.00 QLiberator (c-d) £60.00 Area Radar Controller £13.00 Chess £17.00 Ches £17.00 Ch	000000000000000000000000000000000000000
Finance Manager Home Finance (Buzz) £29.00 Home Finance (Buzz) £22.00 Cload & Ref Linestment Monitor Project Planner Small Traders Pack Spellbound (c-d) £30.00 Spellbound + Filebound Touch Typist Pacioli E25.00 Task Master E25.00 Task Master E25.00 Task Master E25.00 The Editor Turbo (c-d) £30.00 Turbo (c-d) £99.00	000000000000000000000000000000000000000
Home Finance (Buzz)   £22.00   Cload & Ref   £10.00   Cosmos   £14.00	000000000000000000000000000000000000000
Investment Monitor   \$22.00   Quats   \$25.00   Flight Simulator   \$29.00   QRam (c-d)   \$30.00   Matchpoint   \$24.00   Small Traders Pack   \$25.00   QWriter 2   \$20.00   Spellbound (c-d)   \$30.00   Task Master   \$25.00   Professional Astrologer   \$25.00   Spellbound   \$25.00   Task Master   \$25.00   Super Astrologer   \$25.00   Super Astrologer   \$25.00   Task Master   \$25.00   Super Astrologer   \$25.00   Super Astrologer   \$25.00   Task Master   \$25.00   Super Astrologer   \$25.00   Turbo (c-d)   \$29.00   Squadron   \$25.00   Turbo (c-d)   \$29.00   Squadron   \$213.00   Strip Poker   \$215.00   Strip Poker   \$215	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
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Turbo (c-d)	0
UTILITIES         Turbo Quill (c-d)         £10.00         Super Backgammon 3         £13.0           Archivist         £30.00         Turbo Quill + (c-d)         £13.00         Strip Poker         £15.0           Cartridge Doctor         £13.00         Ultra Print         £20.00         Strip Poker         £15.0           Copymate         £11.00         Ultra Print         £20.00         Type 22         £18.0           CPM Emulator (c-d)         £45.00         CAD         Type 22         War In The East:           CPM Emulator (c-d)         £45.00         CAD         \$20.00         \$23.00         \$25.00         \$20.00         \$23.00         \$23.00         \$23.00         \$23.00         \$23.00         \$23.00         \$23.00         \$23.00         \$23.00         \$23.00         \$23.00         \$23.00         \$23.00         \$23.00         \$23.00         \$20.	0
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Recover £20.00 MonQL (Eprom) £30.00 Knight Flight £15.0	0
Sideways £20.00 Pascal (Computer One) £40.00 Mortville Manor £20.0	0
Sidewinder £10.00 Pascal (Metacornoco) £75.00 Quboids £9.0	)
Archive Tutor £21.00 Pro Fortran-77 £92.00 Stone Raider £13.0	0
Super Media Manager (d) £40.00 Pro Pascal £92.00 Tank Busters £15.0	0
Super Media Manager (v) 140.00 1101 assa	

#### BOOKS

DOOKS			
Adv. User Guide	£15	QL Service Manual	£20
Assembly Lang.		Technical Guide	£20
Programming	£9	Other QL titles availa	ble,
ODOS Companion	67	- phone for details	

MA LANS	Z88
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# mistake

Another minor mishap. A section of lines was missed from the magazine listing. The missing lines ran from 5480 to 6070 and are:

## Roulette Ultrasoft reappears

Not immune to the usual upheavals generated by major company re-organisation, supplies of the programs from Ultrasoft are now making their way back on to the market.

Qkick, with which Ultrasoft made its debut into the QL market, has been vastly expanded to the current version 3.6 and is now fullycompatible with the Qjump QRAM. The majority of the standard Ultrasoft titles must be obtained directly from Germany until such time as a U.K. agent has

been appointed.

Other Programs available from Ultrasoft include Toolbox II, Q-Writer v1.17. Graphic Construction Kit. Full House, Arcanoid, Double Ion and Gold Ion, and Q-Fonts I for use with Q-Writer.

```
5470 AT#4; a+1, 23-LEN(cnt(a)): PRINT#4; cnt(a)
 5480 END FOR a
 5490 elegir_numero
 5500 verificar_apuestas
 5510 actualizar_fondos
 5520 PRINT#6; t3$
 5530 IF numero=0
 5540 FOR k=1 TO 6
5550 val(ord(k),k)=0
 5560 ord(k)=ord(k)-2
 5570 END FOR k
5580 FOR q=1 TO 6
5590 FOR nom=1 TO ord(q):val(nom,q)=val(nom+1,q)
 5600 END FOR q
 5610 END IF
 5620 FOR g=1 TO 6
 5630 IF gan(g)>0 AND numero>0
 5640 ord(g)=ord(g)+1
 5650 ord(7-g)=ord(7-g)-2
5660 val(ord(g),g)=cnt(g)
5670 FOR u=1 TO ord(7-g):val(u,7-g)=val(u+1,7-g)
 5680 END IF
5690 END FOR g
5700 cambiar 4
 5710 IF ett=1:texto 4
 5720 PRINT#6; t19$
5730 borrar_variables
 5740 IF banc<=0:EXIT proceso
5750 END REPeat proceso
5760 reiniciar
5770 END DEFine
5780 :
5790 DEFine PROCedure empezar_serie (a)
5800 FOR s=1 TO 4:val(s,a)=s:ord(a)=4
5810 END DEFine
5820 :
5830 DEFine PROCedure reiniciar
5840 IF fdon<=0:PRINT#8;t13$
5850 IF banc <= 0: PRINT#8; t14$
5860 IF NOT hay_fondos:PRINT#8;t16$
5870 PRINT#9;t15$:CLS#6
5880 aviso: PAUSE 100
5890 borrar_variables
5900 texto_4b
5910 IF fdon<=0:cantidad_jugador
5920 IF banc<=0:cantidad_banca
5930 IF NOT hay_fondos:cantidad_jugador
5940 PRINT#8;ta$:PRINT#9;tb$
5950 iniciar_juego
5960 END DEFine
5970
5980 DEFine PROCedure aviso
5990 BEEP 1600,70
6000 END DEFine
6020 DEFine PROCedure resultado
6030 IF numero=0
6040 FOR r=11 TO 13:AT r, 30:PRINT
4050 ELSE
6060 FOR rs=1 TO numero
6070 IF rs=1 DR rs=19:RESTORE 2430
6080 READ res
```

## **Faster and Faster**

Simon Goodwin, author of the SuperCharge and Turbo compilers, aims to make the QL faster still. His latest product, SpeedScreen, is a general-purpose utility designed to increase screen output speed in Mode 4 by anything up to 10 times normal. The exact speed increase factor depends on the CSIZE, INK, PAPER, OVER and UNDER being used when printing text. Speed increases have also been achieved on scrolling and even clearing the screen.

Not all screen output will show an improvement. There has been no attempt to alter Mode 8 output, or CSIZES other than 0,0 and 1.0. They are the sizes used by most commercial programs, including the Psion packages, so it is still a very worthwhile product.

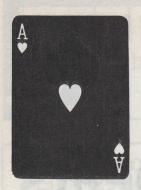
In addition to re-writing the appropriate display routines a number of new features have been added. There is now a new speedy CSIZE between 0.0 and 1.0. and a condensed size. Userdefined graphics are also available from SuperBasic on an 8 x 9 grid, giving much more attractive characters. A library of new fonts is supplied with the tape and disc versions.

SpeedScreen retails for £20 cartridge or disc or £30 ROM. It will also be available built into expansion systems from several major QL manufacturers.

We will be examining the package in detail next month. Further information can be obtained from Creative CodeWorks, 120 Greenfield Road, Harborne, Birmingham B17 0EG.

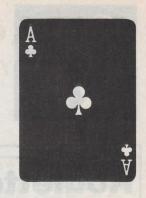
## **New Schon** keyboard is now available

After overcoming considerable production difficulties, supplies of the new Schon separate keyboard are now finding their way into users' hands. More reminiscent of a PC than the traditional QL key layout, the Schon top-ofthe-range 76-key keyboard includes 10 function keys, a numerical keypad and several genuinely useful functionally-combined keys exceptional to the operation of the QL. Eight cursor keys are provided for horizontal, vertical and diagonal movement of the screen cursor.



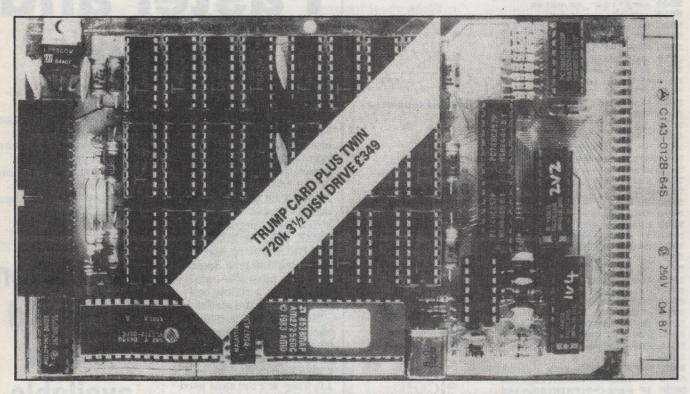
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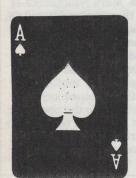
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  Toolkit II
  Screen Dump
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\* New printout software



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- 3 metre cable
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- ★ Includes Viewdata software
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- \* Not BT approved

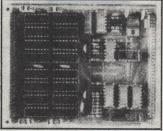
#### **QL MODAPTOR £39**

**★ New printout software** 



- \* Interfaces OL to standard modem
- 300/300, 1200/75, 1200/1200
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- ★ Plugs into SER2
- ★ Terminated by 25 way D
- ★ Includes Viewdata software
- ★ Includes 80 column software

#### QL EXPANDERAM 512K £75



- ★ Increases QL memory to 640K
- Through connector for i/f
- ★ Low power consumption
- ★ Can speed up some programs
- \* Able to use larger Quill docs etc
- \* Black cover included

#### **QL CENTRONICS £19.50** PRINTER INTERFACE



- Plugs into SER1 or SER2
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- \* 3 metre cable

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- \* 4 QL's to 1 printer ★ 5 metre cable £7.50
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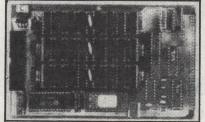
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## **JOYSTICK ADAPTOR £4.99**

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Open Channel is where you have the opportunity to voice your opinions in Sinclair QL World. Whether you want to ask for help with a technical problem, provide somebody with the answer, or just sound off about something which bothers you, write to: Open Channel, Sinclair QL World, Greencoat House, Francis Street, London SW1P 1DG.

# O PARE SYNTER NO.

#### Simple protection

There appears to have been a good deal of speculation about ways of protecting SuperBasic programs from tampering. I have devised an easy method of doing it by re-defining the editing codes as follows:

Example:

10000 DEFine PROCedure LIST

10010 NEW

10020 END DEFine

10030 DEFine PROCedure EDIT

10040 NEW

10050 END DEFine

10060 DEFine PROCedure AUTO

10070 NEW

10080 END DEFine

Any attempt to use these keywords will then cause the program to NEW itself. Simple solutions are often the best. I hope this will help fellow QL users in protecting their work.

Colin Holland, Chertsey, Surrey.

#### JS upgrade

With regard to the article Roms Revealed in the August, 1987 issue, there seems to be a misleading point. It states that JM software was the first to fit into two chips. My AH version QL was on two ROMs before I upgraded it successfully to JS with no difficulty. I think that information would be more useful to Christos Koutsoupas - August, 1987, Open Channel who enquired about the upgrade. He may have a ROM version AH rather than the earlier EPROM version.

Alastair Wright, Chryston, Glasgow.

#### The QL world

First let me congratulate you for the excellent magazine you are running. Also if the rumours that you are running it with five QLs are true, let me congratulate you again. My firm belief is that instead of thinking only about themselves, software and hardware houses should work together. I am convinced that if goals were to be set and everybody worked towards them, perhaps we might still make the QL recognised by everyone as the great machine it is.

Despite this pessimistic outlook on the QL market I am happy to see that more and more programmers writing QL software know what

they are doing.

The quality of products produced by certain people is such that I am astounded they have not fled to more interesting machines. I know you are saying there is nothing more interesting than the QL. In spite of being a Sinclair addict I have to admit that the Amiga is something else. Be happy I am not say-

# CHANNELL CONTRACTOR OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PRO

ing the same thing about the Atari ST.

Moving to another subject, I am about to finish work on a program which I would like to see printed in the magazine. My first query is whether you accept programs from overseas? Second, would you accept a program which amounts to approximately 24K and is about 900 lines long?

Jose Luis Martins, Portugal.

Editor's reply: We accept programs from overseas and with the new expanded Microdrive Exchange we consider much longer programs than we were previously able to do. Submissions should contain at least a Microdrive cartridge, instructions and SAE. A demonstration program, where necessary, boot file, Quill documentation and program listing are also helpful.

Our turnround of program submissions is now down to less than two months, by which time you will either receive an acceptance form confirming our rates of pay and plans for your program or a letter explaining why we are unable to publish the program. That may be because we have already accepted a similar program, or we may feel that your program is too specialised, or we may suggest a number of improvements before resubmission.

#### Faster than a bullet

I do not know how many read that huge monthly tome, *Byte*, but if you have the August, 1987 issue and turn to page 245, the following might be of interest.

The article was about testing new versions of TurboBasic and QuickBasic for PC compatibles and was based on one benchmark program which loaded and manipulated arrays. Needless to say, with my trusty three-year-old QL I set to work entering, optimising to use integer loops and then compiling, using a very old version of Super-Charge. The result? Without "in line" code, 3:58 and with 2:52. what does this mean?

It means the QL was 2.7 times faster than a Zenith Z-181 portable, 2.6 times faster than a true-blue PC, and even held its own against an 80386 CompuAdd machine with fast RAM, say a 256K QL giving up to 50 percent speed increases and a late version of Turbo. Could we hope for 1:00 results from the QL? If so it would beat everything else in the test other than a fullblown 386 machine and the ones with 80287 maths co-processors.

Did we not know it all along? The QL beats the PCs again. How much extra equipment could you get for the QL with the price difference? We cannot wait for OS/2 or MS-DOS V.5 for PCs. Do not tell anyone but I heard that it might include multitasking. How exciting and innovative – just like the QL.

Danny Ross, Basingstoke.

#### Speedy QL?

Curiousity compels me to write concerning the alleged slowness of the QL, which some seem to find cause for complaint. I run a program regularly, about 5K long, in which the computer has to operate on a selection from 33K of data and carry-out about 900 arithmetical operations, the majority in floating point arithmetic, and print the results as about 270 characters on the screen. This op-

eration takes approximately 7.9 seconds.

In addition, my JM version will find prime numbers in the 10 range in seven seconds or less and will factorise any other numbers in the same range in less than two seconds. It will also calculate 300 factorial in less than one second to normal computer accuracy.

To satisfy my curiousity, what do people want to do with the QL which they find slow?

L G L Unstead-Joss, Edinburgh.

#### Micro-Fair loneliness

I was disappointed to find that the QL World stand at the recent Micro-Fair was manned by non-editorial staff, as I thought it would be a great attraction to have people who could be approached with queries; people to whom one could talk and feel to be old friends even though they had not met previously. I hope you might give consideration to some of your staff and writers being present in future. It can be very lonely not having a friend and guide when one faces the brick wall of an apparently insoluable problem.

Might I also make the suggestion for a series of articles on the definition of the words of a language used so glibly by the experts but which proves to be both confusing and frustrating to the novice such as myself?

I bought my QL two years ago, after much thought, and have struggled to teach myself the rules of programming. Even two sessions at local evening classes, while it helped, failed to get far beyond the elementary stages. Translating from BBC Basic makes you think; every now and again I encounter terms

like macro or vector and searches through my collection of books do not help. They all assume that everybody knows what they mean. Sometimes there is an explanation but one needs a guide. Thank you for the monthly injection of help and encouragement.

F. Merrison, Pinner, Middlesex.

Editor's reply: I must agree that it would be pleasant to man the Micro-Fair stand. Perhaps the reason we have not yet done so is that people manage to encounter the brick wall of an apparently insoluble problem and expect us to solve it.

Everybody knows that Micro is a new type of oven and Vector is a car. Seriously, though, we try to cater for all levels of experience. As with any technical subject, some people find the jargon beyond them and others will wonder why we do not cover more advanced topics.

#### Control II boards

I have enjoyed reading the Connexions page. In the August, 1987 edition you describe the Qontrol II interface board. I would like to buy one

Unfortunately you do mention how to obtain one. Could you please let me know how?

Andrew Price, Stocksfield, Northumberland.

Editor's reply: The Qontrol II interface board is available from Care Electronics, 800 St Albans Road, Garston, Watford, Herts WD2 6NL. Tel 0923 672102. The board will sell for £78.22 plus VAT, with £2 plus VAT post and packing.

Ron Massey looks at current state of the art QL mice systems

Ithough the keyboard still reigns supreme as the most practical and popular device for inserting data into a computer, alternative and usually supplementaty devices are in continual developement which, with varying degrees of success, have been built round special purposes such as graphics, manipulating complex data or menus, or games applications.

There are at present four alternative and largely interchangeable input devices, with a number of minor sub-variations, available to the QL user — the joystick, the lightpen, the graphics tablet and the mouse.

Joysticks were one of the first types of external device intended to complement the keyboard and, at the same time, speed screen handling. Although much of their use with home computers is found with games applications, a joystick has other more serious uses where virtually any type of program requires manipulation of screen information.

#### **Joysticks**

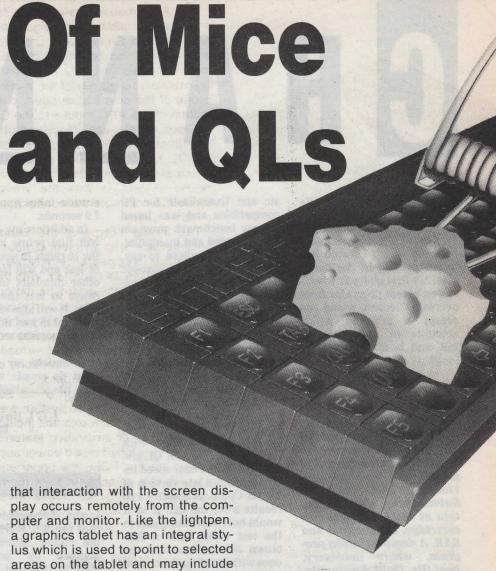
In common with other similar devices, joysticks have a zero or home position when at rest. Movements from this position are translated by the interface into relative vertical, horizontal or diagonal changes on the screen display.

Most joysticks include one or more fire buttons which are analogous to pressing «SPACE» or other key combinations on the keyboard and, depending on the program with which they are used, allow direct user interaction with program flow or selection.

The second type of device, the lightpen, is a type of electronic stylus, not unlike a normal ink pen, connected to a computer through a suitable interface, and is used for pointing to and interacting optionally with specific areas of the image displayed directly on a monitor screen.

A screen cursor or leading pixel, in a succession of pixels, is synchronised to the movement of the pen on the surface of the monitor screen. In effect, the user is drawing directly on to the surface of the screen.

Third in the list of alternative devices, graphics tablets share a functional similarity to lightpens and are used in much the same way, except



puter and monitor. Like the lightpen, a graphics tablet has an integral stylus which is used to point to selected areas on the tablet and may include overlays for tracing or a printed form of menu. The position of the screen cursor or pixel is synchronised electronically to the position and movement of the stylus through its interface.

#### **Sensing elements**

In appearance, graphics tablets vary largely with the application for which they are intended but usually consist of a hard plastic card and are commonly available in a range of sizes from A5 to A3.

Sensing elements built-in or bonded to the surface of the tablet detect the position, in terms of x/y co-ordinates, of the stylus. Resolution, the amount of stylus movement required to affect pixel movement, depends largely on the quality of the tablet and the purpose for which it is intended.

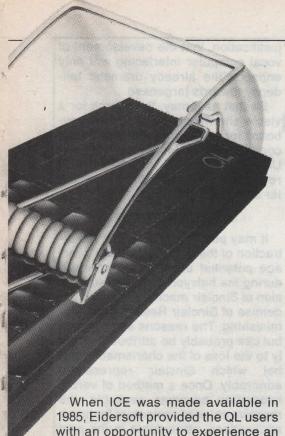
The mouse, as an alternative device to the use of the cursor keys, first gained major popularity for home and business applications when the Apple Macintosh, with its now almost industry-standard GEM front-end and mouse command access, was released a few years ago.

While the internal structure of a mouse varies slightly with each brand, mice consist of a small plastic box and include one or more buttons on the upper surface for the input of commands. A ball, protruding slightly through the base of the mouse, is in constant contact with the table on which it is placed and movement of the mouse within its workspace causes the ball to rotate.

Two internally-mounted perforated discs, coupled to the ball by a friction clutch and separated by 90 degrees, representing the x/y axis, convert light from LEDs into pulses, detecting horizontal and vertical movement which, in turn, is translated by the mouse interface into screen position of a cursor.

In terms of speed of operation, where a screen cursor is used to select from complex menus or when used for freehand drawing applications, a mouse is difficult to equal.

At present there are four brands of mouse available for the QL. The first to make its appearance was the Eidersoft Mice system, released soon, after its EPROM-based ICE front-end.



When ICE was made available in 1985, Eidersoft provided the QL users with an opportunity to experience an integrated front-end system modelled after the front-end supplied as standard with the Macintosh, a system which the majority of computer manufacturers world-wide have tended to emulate ever since.

The standard version of ICE relies on pressing a combination of cursor keys to effect movement of a screen pointer which, in turn, accessses the system commands. Command selection is made by either a single or double pressing of the «SPACE» bar.

The Eidersoft mouse system includes EPROM-based ICE and connects to the QL through the ROM port. Command selection is made by pressing one of the three mouse buttons.

#### ice system

Shortly after its mouse system, Eidersoft released its graphics program, ArtICE. As a graphics system it is innovative and includes a number of useful features for effective graphic arts. All menus are mouse-accessed and selection from each of the menus, as with the drawing process, occurs by moving the mouse over an area of adjacent work-table space and pressing one of its buttons.

The French-based software company, Pyramide, has produced a particularly versatile graphics program, *QL Designer*, one of the few programs which users can elect to use optionally either with the Eidersoft mouse system or cursor keys to control the screen when the program is configured to run a particular system.

The ABC mouse system was released to complement its Giga Desk front-end and Gigachrome graphics program systems, both of which have been reviewed in Utility File. While the mechanical quality of the mouse is one of the best I have seen, connection of the ABC mouse to the QL includes a relatively clumsy prototype interface which occupies both the QL ROM and CTRL ports. My principal objection to the finish of this mouse system is thet the wiring needed to complete the connections is rather untidy.

The first prototype of the Sandy disc interface, with an integral mouse port, made its appearance in November, 1986 at the ZX Microfair. With the differences that the prototype did not include a built-in RAM disc and incorporated a chip-packing density which needed to be seen to be appreciated, the prototype was otherwise virtually identical to the previous versions of the standard Super Q Board.

The production version of the Super Q Board and mouse system was released soon afterwards and included a number of innovative features such as a switched mode power supply and stacked PCBs, the upper one of which is a detachable 512K memory board. Code for the mouse driver originates from QJump and is one of the smoothest I have had on my test bench.

#### **Limited access**

One of the more common criticisms of the QL is that it is very easy to fill the two access ports by the many add-ons available. Largely correcting this deficiency, and leaving the expansion ports available for other peripherals, QIMI, the QJump mouse interface, is fitted internally, directly to the QL main PCB.

Displacing the upper ROM-marked QL-JM or JS8000 – and the ZX8302 chips, the interface PCB is a very neat example of well-planned add-on engineering. Installation is intended as a DIY project and all the required tools – a particularly useful miniature tool for extracting chips from the QLs main PCB and a cross-point screw driver, are included; no soldering is required. The instructions provided are clear, concise and unambiguous.

Considerable thought has gone into the QIMI miniaturised layout; the shape of the PCB allows additional internal peripherals, such as the majority of the internal memory upgrades, to be used in conjunction with its installation. The mouse connection is made to a small ribbon cable, wired to the QIMI PCB, exiting

through the rear of the QL which terminates in a multi-pin plug.

Much of the compact design of the interface can be attributed to the use of surface-mounted integrated circuits rather than the more usual plugin types of IC which occupy about four times the area.

The two resistors mounted above the 8302, known as modification "G", required for improving the reliability of Microdrives, can be removed from the QL completely as they have been incorporated into the QIMI interface.

Installation of the QIMI interface is simple but extreme care must be taken at two stages – the chips displaced by the interface are very sensitive to static electricity and can easily be destroyed. If you have carpets or clothing which include manmade fibre, it is a good idea to avoid moving around until the installation is completed.

#### Interfaces

The other precaution concerns the pins located on both the bottom of the interface and on the integrated circuits. While the connecting pins are not particularly fragile, bending one or more of them without realising you have done so is fairly easy to do.

The new socket into which the mouse connects exits through one of the existing QL ports – over the serial 2 port. Alternatively, the more adventurous may consider cutting the QL housing carefully and providing a separate exit for the connector and mounting the mouse socket in line with other QL connectors.

Still relatively rare in the U.K., the single-button Star mouse originates in Spain from Puricorp and connects to the QL via the ROM and CTRL ports. The only program available at present for use with the Star mouse is a rather interesting graphics program. Although it incorporates a number of useful features, the documentation supplied with the review copy was entirely in Spanish.

Curiously, manufacturers of new computer systems seem to feel that the inclusion of a mouse as a standard feature is almost mandatory. As a consequence, programs on the Amiga and ST, to name two such systems, seem to delight in requiring that the user integrates the use of the mouse into programs for all command access.

Mice are particularly useful for freehand drawing. Where I dislike the use of mice is for applications such as word processing, where there is a mandatory mixture of using the keyboard for

# Of Mice and QLs

character input, and the mouse for accessing the command menus.

One of the principal limitations of QL mice is that very little has been done to provide the general user with a simple means of utilising mouse code with programs other than those released commercially. Also the various mouse systems available for the QL are not interchangeable.

#### Compatability

If you wish to use a mouse with your programs, interfacing the Sandy/QJump system has been implemented by the author of *QWriter* and *QWriter II* with the *Writer and Pointer Toolkit* reviewed in the October Utility File.

This particularly useful toolkit provides SuperBasic extensions, allowing users to write their own systems for either graphics programs or command menus and optionally utilises the QRAM non-destructive windowing routines.

Software houses have been generally remiss in providing users with programs on general release with which a mouse may be used with their systems. The mouse compatibility line-up is:

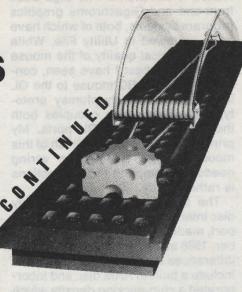
Eidesoft: ICE front end, ArtICE and Pyramide QL Designer.

Sandy/QJump: QRAM, Datalink CADPAK, and Writer and Pointer Toolkit.

Star: Puricorp dedicated graphics program.

ABC: Gigachrome and Gigadesk.

To date, only the Sandy/QJump mouse system can be interfaced easily to user-originated SuperBasic programs and only by including the extensions provided by the Pointer Toolkit. It is rather surprising that, where applications of the mice available for the QL have emulated the popular GEM/Macintosh front-end/command access systems, with the exception of the QJump QRAM they all share the common fault of not including some method of software adjustment of the ratio of mouse to screen cursor movement.



Having fixed ratios of movement can result in requiring either too much table space for the mouse or a mouse which is too sensitive to positional movement.

It is equally surprising that manufacturers have not adapted existing technology to produce either a dedicated QL graphics tablet or a lightpen, for which there would be an undoubted demand. In some ways, graphics tablets are somewhat more specialised than the other devices dealt with in this report but are generally more versatile.

#### **Future of mice**

Technological trends indicate that there will be amazing developments in the area of computer interfacing in the next few years. A number of manufacturers are making serious attempts at developing vocal interfacing and the ramifications of such a system, when it eventually makes its appearance, are truly mind-boggling.

Some computer-literate sociologists feel that vocal interaction will go a long way to redress the often-lamented lack of social communication. Others feel, with probable

justification, that the development of vocal computer interfacing will only enhance the already dramatic tendency towards jargonese.

Be that as it may, the search for a viable alternative to the humble keyboard for interfacing the user to the computer is a continuing process. Undoubtedly vocal interfacing will reap tremendous benefits for particular applications.

#### **Available options**

It may possibly be true that the attraction of the computer for the average potential user, as experienced during the halcyon days of a succession of Sinclair machines prior to the demise of Sinclair Research, is dimminishing. The reasons are complex but can probably be attributed largely to the loss of the charismatic symwhich Sinclair represented admirably. Once a method of verbal interaction becomes available, the massive sales of computers for home applications, attributable in the past to Sir Clive's imagination, will probably be re-kindled.

In the meantime, whether or not you feel the addition of a mouse to your QL operating system is a worth-while investment will depend largely on your particular requirements.

Some types of commercially-available programs, such as ICE and QRAM, are genuinely enhanced by the availability of a mouse. The majority of the more sophisticated general-purpose graphics programs include a facility for airbrush/spray painting; at least one provides a routine which, where a mouse is available, users can make small modifications to the configuration of the main program so that it is mouse-compatible.

Where business programs employ complex menu systems a mouse is invaluable for improving speed of program operation. A mouse, in common with any other type of computer peripheral, is only as helpful as its user makes it.

Product: Eidersoft Mouse Price:£59.95

Source: Transform Ltd, 24 West Oak, Beckenham, Kent BR3 2EZ.

Tel: 01-658 6350

**Product:** Sandy Super Q Board w/ 512K and Mouse **Price:** £287 **Source:** Sandy (U.K.) PCP Ltd, Unit 33, Murdock Road, Manton Lane,

Bedford MK41 7PQ Tel: 0234219814

Product: Qiump Mouse Interface Price: £69.95

Source: 24 King Street, Rampton, Cambs CB4 4QD. Tel: 0954 50800 Product: ABC Mouse Price: £85.95

Source: ABC Elektronic, Hugelstrabe, 10-12 48 Biellefeld 1,

West Germany. Tel: 010 49 521 8980881

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pellBound is an online spelling checker introduced by Sector Software. It can work with any program which requires text input. That includes the obvious programs such as Quill and Editor and also the less obvious ones such as Super-Basic. The program works by monitoring the keyboard input and comparing 'words' against its dictionary.

Various levels of interference may be specified by the user, so that *SpellBound* may remark on a 'new' word which of course may be an error in one of several ways, ranging from a discreet bleep, through putting a mark in the text, to disabling the entry of mis-spellings.

#### **Esoteric words**

There are several instances when you want the checker to be able to do more than that. We all have our own favourite esoteric words and language structures. So it would be convenient to have an automatic way of personalising your dictionary to teach it the less common words you use.

Sometimes it is convenient to work in 'modes', sticking to doing one thing at a time. An example in the case of document creation might be first to put together some text, forged in the white heat of creativity, and only later, when the muse has passed on, to worry about layout, spelling and so on. This type of approach is contrary to the idea of on-line spelling checking, since the opportunity for SpellBound to monitor the text is limited to what is being typed now.

#### **Filebound**

So an off-line mechanism is required which does the checking against the same dictionary and ideally to the same conventions as the original. The program FileBound was written to provide this facility. A listing of FileBound is included in The Progs and the purpose of this article is to describe how the program works. The program application will have some interest for SpellBound users but the program might also offer some interesting points for a wider group.

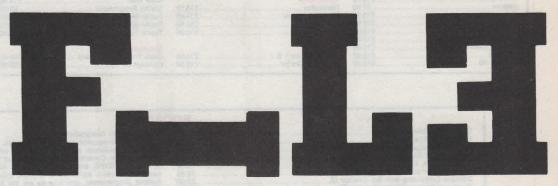
In principle, FileBound is a simple extension of the-

SpellBound idea. SpellBound steals the keyboard from the program which currently has it, analyses the keyboard input as it occurs and then passes on the keyboard data, plus any commentary from SpellBound, to the host program — Quill or Editor or whatever.

All that happens without

which has been "errored" by SpellBound. It could be a file on disc, RAM or tape, or the screen – scr – or perhaps the printer – ser or par. Conversely, the program may be run in teaching mode, where it is assumed that the input file has no spelling mistakes and any new words are to be added to the dictionary. In

character from the keyboard. "sv keyq" is a pointer to the current keyboard 'queue', the list into which characters from the program which owns the queue. "io qin" is the address which holds the address of a routine in the QL ROM which places a new character into a queue; this routine address is moved into



### Chas Dillon casts an expert eye over the program Filebound and explains how it works

host program being aware that anything has changed. FileBound works in a similar way. It forces Spell-Bound to steal the keyboard from FileBound, then goes to see which system channel has the keyboard, and thereafter simulates keyboard input into that channel by reading the data from the document file to be checked. So SpellBound is deceived into thinking that all the data from FileBound is from the keyboard. The output from SpellBound is passed to File-Bound in the usual way and FileBound writes it to the new document file.

The program takes as input either a straight text file, which is simple, or a Quill document file, which is not. Quill document files have much control information in them, with pointers to specific character positions in the file. If any characters are inserted into the file all the relevant pointers have to be adjusted or Quill will not be able to make sense of the amended file.

The output from the program depends on some startup options. The program may be run as a straight check on a file, in which case a revised document file will be written. Optionally, another file, the listing file, may be specified, to which is written any word this mode, as a precaution, FileBound always produces a listing file.

After FileBound has completed it will display the number of new or errored words. The output listing file may be examined, if it was set up as a file and not a device, by copying to screen or printer or by reading it into Editor or importing into Quill. The revised document file, if any, may be read into the appropriate editor and errored words may be found by scanning for the hat (" ") character SpellBound uses to mark errors. Note that SpellBound should be running in its MODE 3, its default mode, while running with File-Bound.

#### **Table update**

The main body of the program is simple. The only slightly complex part is the requirement to update the paragraph control table in Quill document files.

Lines 1190-1220 have some QL system variable addresses. All those addresses, and many others, are documented in standard QL works such as *The Sinclair Qdos Companion* (Andrew Pennell) and *QL Advanced User Guide* (Adrian Dickens). "sv arbuf" is the QL location which contains the latest

the variable "add to q". The Identify Files and Options routine take care of the start-up dialogue. On return from this routine, the files have been opened and control variables have been set. Channel #3 is used as the input file. If the variable "writing" is true, channel #4 is used as the output file. If the variable "list reqd" is true, channel #5 is used as the listing file.

Two other variables have been set; "teaching" is true if new words are to be added to the dictionary and "quill doc" is true if the input file is in Quill document file format. In the latter case, some other items are researched from the Quill file header, namely the length of the 'text portion' of the file and the length of the Quill paragraph control table

As most users will know, Quill documents have their control information at the back end of the file, so File-Bound discovers from the file prefix where the text data ends and the control data starts. The end of text pointer value is stored in the variable "quill ptr". The length of the paragraph control table is stored in the variable "para tab len" and some memory is reserved for storing updates to elements in the control table

The program then wakes

SpellBound. SpellBound will have been started previously, using the special boot file provided with the program. This boot operation completes the loading of the dictionary and then asks what program should be loaded. At that point the boot program may be broken, using CTRL and SPACE. That leaves Spell-

as flags for underline on/off, bold on/off and the like. They are passed straight through to the output file, if any.

The program is also interested in keeping track of words. It looks for word delimiters so that if a word is errored by SpellBound the whole of the word may be added to the listing file. Clear-

If SpellBound errors the word, or the word up to the present point, it will return the hat character followed by the character sent. In checking for a hat response, the program must be careful that hat is not also what was sent.

One other circumstance has to be considered. Spell-Bound plays games if it sees known Word. If in teaching mode, and SpellBound has errored the current word, when FileBound reaches the next word delimiter it will add the whole word to the dictionary. The signal to tell SpellBound to do this is CTRL and A – ASCII code 1.

When a new word occurs, SpellBound looks at the first character and, if it is a capital letter, breaks out of the current sequence and asks if the word is valid only if the initial letter is capital, for example the word London or Jennifer. Rather than stop the program and ask the user, FileBound always responds "No" to those questions, so that the word is valid in the dictionary whether it has an initial capital or not.

Most frequently it can be expected that a word is capitalised because it is the first word of a sentence. A similar sequence can occur if adding a word which ends in a full stop – SpellBound will ask if it is an abbreviation in which case the full stop is stored in the dictionary as part of the "word". Again, FileBound will reply "No" to the question.

There are two more routines which might hold some mysteries. They are to do with closing the Quill document file. The paragraph control table has a small prefix which indicates the size of each entry, the current table capacity, the actual number of entries and the table increment size. The entries then follow.

Each entry is 14 bytes long. The first four bytes indicate the offset from the start of file of the first character of the paragraph. The next two bytes contain the length of the paragraph. The remaining eight bytes contain information about margins, tabs and so forth, which is not affected by FileBound.

#### **Start positions**

The routine Update Paragraphs makes adjustments to the start positions and lengths, using information stored by the Put and Read routine while processing the file. The final chore for a Quill document is to update the pointer in the document file prefix which indicates the



Bound running but unattached to any program. In that state it is looking constantly at the "sv arbuf" address to see if anyone wants it.

The conventional signal to switch on is CTRL and O – letter O – which equates to AS-CII code 15. FileBound pokes the trigger value into that address and then suspends itself by waiting for the response to an otherwise pointless INPUT statement.

When FileBound gets a response to the INPUT statement it does so by courtesy of SpellBound, which has by now seen the CTRLO and stolen the keyboard. Knowing that, FileBound looks at the system variable "sv keyq" to see which keyboard queue SpellBound is using.

From then, FileBound will put all of the text from its input file into that queue, using the ROM routine pointed to by "add to q", and get all its data back from SpellBound via channel +1, the channel which owned the keyboard when SpellBound stole it.

#### Display flags

The main loop reads one character from the input file. If it is anything like a displayable character it is passed to SpellBound. Non-display characters are to be expected in Quill documents

ly, it cannot know ahead of time which words are incorrect, so every start of word is noted. All characters which are none of A-Z, a-z, 0-9, apostrophe and hyphen are considered to be word delimiters.

That is to conform with the SpellBound view of words. In addition to noting where the word starts, FileBound also notes if the initial letter of the word is a capital; later SpellBound may ask some questions prompted by the occurrence of a word starting with a capital letter and the program needs to be able to anticipate whether or not those questions will be asked.

#### Added word

On receipt of any word delimiter, the program checks if the prior word has been errored, in which case the variable "word pending" is set true and if so the word is either added to the dictionary or added to the listing file, or both or neither, depending on the status of the start-up options.

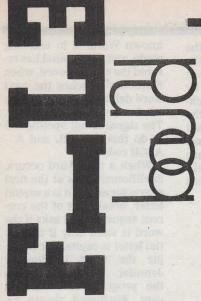
The procedure Put and Read is the central part of the program. The object of the routine is to give a character to SpellBound and to service the response. In the majority of cases it is to be expected that the character given is the character which will be returned.

its own name. If a delimiter occurs before and after the word spellbound, the response from SpellBound will be a 'left word delete' character – ASCII 198 – followed by 13 data characters, being two spaces and SPELLBOUND in capitals, followed by the delimiter sent. FileBound throws away the excess 12 characters.

If the character which has just been returned is a 'paragraph delimiter' from a Quill file, an ASCII zero FileBound has spotted previously when looking for delimiters in function Char Range and turned temporarily into an ENTER character, some information has to be stored so that the paragraph contro! table may be updated when it is reached.

The information stored is "how many new characters have been added to this paragraph". Those new characters are, of course, the hat error flags returned by Spell-Bound. Later, when the paragraph control table is being amended, the two items 'start address of paragraph' and 'length of paragraph' for each paragraph may be amended by adding the values just stored.

The other routine which needs a little explanation is the procedure Add to Dictionary, called from Check Un-



end of the text zone, which is synonymous with the start of the paragraph control table. That address has been moved back by the number of error flags added to the file. The routine to do this is Update Quill Ptr.

The last comment concerning Quill files is a waiver. It is possible, if Archive databases are a criterion, that Quill document files may contain areas of garbage. If so, the garbage will be transparent to the user, since Quill will know about it and avoid or remove the areas. This comment arises since the Quill file seems to have a "scrap control table" after the paragraph control table. The table never seems to have any entries, so it is likely that modern versions of Quill - v2.3+ - do not use it. FileBound takes no action in relation to this, or any later table. Noone using the program so far has reported any kind of problem in this area.

FileBound as a SuperBasic program leaves a little to be desired, most particularly in the area of file handling, because it has been written in "vanilla" SuperBasic to be entirely self-contained. It takes advantage of none of the popular QL extension Toolkits which would remove the rough patches of the program. Users with appropriate extra software, as in the Qjump Toolkit or the Turbo Toolkit, will be able to modify the program by using functions such as FOPEN, FOP NEW, DEVICE STATUS and so forth, to avoid the program crashing if a named file cannot be found or opened. A compiled version of the program is also available from PQDL in Birmingham.

```
1000 REMark FileBound - SpellBound applied to a file - C.D. 2 Jun 86
 1020 REMark Get i/p and o/p file names
1030
1040 REMark Switch on SpellBound
1040 REMARK Switch on SpellBound
1050 REMARK Reed characters from i/p file to SpellBound's i/p channel
1060 REMARK Read characters from SpellBound's o/p channel
1070 REMARK Write characters to o/p file
1080 REMARK If Quill file, adjust file header and paragraph control table
1090 REMARK N.B. if any subsequent table needs adjusting (unlikely)
1100 REMARK -- THIS PROGRAM DOES NOT DO IT --
1110
        REMark Next two lines for TURBO users only:
1130 DAFA AREA 3
1140 IMPLICIT% ii, jj
1160 DIM ipfnm$(50), opfnm$(50), lsfnm$(50)
1170 DIM a$(200), c$(200), prior word$(200)
1180 :
1190 sv arbuf = 163978 : REMark Last key pressed
1200 sv keyq = 163916 : REMark Current keyboard queue
1210 io qin = 14*16 : REMark 'Put byte in queue' ve
                                                                                  vector
1220 add to q = PEEK W(io qin)
1230
1240 xtra ch = 0 : in ct = 0 : changed = 0 : beyond quill text = 0
1250 word pending = 0 : lsfnm$ = '7'; prior word$ = '7
1270 Identify Files and Options
1280
 1290 Switch on SpellBound
1300 REMark Spellbound should now have the keyboard
1310
        INPUT NTO 22; "Press ENTER to continue: ";c$
1320
        Identify Current KeyQ
1340
        REPeat main lp
          1F EOF(#3) : EX
a$ = Next Char$
                            : EXIT main lp
1360
           lF Display Char
1380
1390
              Put and Read (a$)
1400
              ELSE
              IF list reqd : Check Unknown Word
1410
              IF beyond quill text
Scan Fara Table
1430
                  ELSE
1450
                 Write Char
                 END IF : END IF
1460
1470
          END REPeat main 1p
1480
1490 CLOSE #3
1500 IF writing: CLOSE #4
1510 IF )ist reqd: CLOSE #5
1520 Give to SpellBound CHR$(208): REMark Up arrow to switch off
1530 d$ = INKEY$(#1,-1)
1540 (F quill doc: Update Quill Ptr
1550 REMark RECHP table space [ or DEALLOCATE table space ]
1560 PRINT \'End of Task - ';xtra ch; new/error words were found'
1570 IF teaching AND xtra ch
                     Remember to save the new dictionary : END IF
 580
1590 STOP
1600 :
1610 DEFine PROCedure Switch on SpellBound
1620 POKE W sv arbuf, 15 : REMark CTRL/O
1630
           END DEFine
1640
1650 DEFine PROCedure Identify Current KeyQ
1660 queue ptr = PEEK L(sv keyq)
1670 END DEFine
1680
1690 DEFine Function Next Char$
1700 in ct = in ct + 1
           in ct = in ct + 1
RETurn lNKEY$(#3,-1)
1720
           END DEFine
1740 DEFine Function Display Char
1750
           char type = Char Range
delimiter = (char type <> 2)
1760
1770
           RETurn char type
1780
           END DEFine
1790
       DEFine Function Char Range
REMark Returns 0 - non-display character
REMark 1 - displayable word delimiter
 1800
1810
1820
                               2 - part of word
1830
           lF quill doc
1840
              1F in ct > quill ptr : beyond quill text = 1 : RETurn 0
BND IF
1850
1860
1870
               - CUDE(as)
1880
           SELect ON 11
                            : 1F NOT quill doc : RETurn 0
as = CHR$(10) : changed = 1 : RETurn 1
: RETurn 1 : REMark TAB, ENTER
: RETurn 2 : REMark apostrophe, hyphen
              - 0
1900
1910
              = 9, 10
           = 39, 45
= 32 TO 47
1920
1930
                                      RETurn 1
                                                     : REMark 0 to 9
              = 48 TO 57
1940
                                      RETurn 2
1950
              - 58 TO 64 :
                                      RETurn 1
              - 65 TO 90 : IF prior word$ = " : caps set = 1
```

```
: 91 TO 96 : RETURN 2 : REMARK A to Z

: 97 TO 122 : RETURN 2 : REMARK a to z

= 123 TO 127 : RETURN 1

= REMAINDEK : RETURN 0

END SELect

END DEFine
      2050 DEFine PROCedure Put_and_Read(txt$)
                           hat in = (txts = '2')
Give_to_SpellBound (txts)
      2060
                          Nat in = (txts = 'n')

Give_to_SpellBound (txts)

REPeat xs lp

as = INKEYs(#1,-1)

IF as = ''

IF NOT hat in

Write Char: xtra_ch = xtra_ch + 1

word_pending = 1: as = INKEYs(#1,-1)

END IF: END IF

IF as = txts: EXIT xs_lp

IF CODE(as) = 198

REMAR's SpellBound playing games with its own name - discard

FOR ii = 1 TO 13: as = INKEYs(#1,-1)

EXIT xs_lp: END IF

Write Char: xtra_ch = xtra_ch + 1

END REPeat xs_lp

IF delimiter
     2080
      2090
     2100
     2110
     2120
     2130
     2140
                         IF delimiter
Check_Unknown_Word
ELSE
     2230
     2240
                                IF list_reqd : prior_word$ = prior_word$ & a$
END IF
     2250
    2260
                         IF
                                  NOT changed
    2270
                                Write Char
    2280
                       HLSE
IF writing: PRINT #4;CHR$(0);
REMARK Store changes to Quill's paragraph control table
POKE W para_pt-2, xtra_ch - PEEK_W(para_pt-2)
POKE_W para_pt, xtra_ch : POKE W para_pt+2, xtra_ch
para_pt = para_pt + 4 : changed = 0 : END IF
END DEFine
    2300
    2320
    2330
    2340
    2350
    2360
    2370 DEFine PROCedure Write Char
2380 IF writing: PRINT #4;as;
2390 END DEFine
 2390 END DEFine
2400 :
2410 DEFine PROCedure Check Unknown Word
2420 IF word pending
2430 IF teaching : Add_to_Dictionary
2440 IF list_reqd : Write_to_List
2450 word_pending = 0
2460 RETurn : END IF
2470 IF list_reqd : prior_word$ = ' : caps_set = 0
2480 END DEFine
2490 :
    2490 :
2500 DEFine PROCedure Add to Dictionary
2510 Give to SpellBound CHR$(1) : REMark CTRL/A
2520 IF cape set : Give to SpellBound "n"
2530 IF CODE(a$) = 46 : Give to SpellBound "n"
2540 KEMArk aka IF a$ = "." : Give_to SpellBound "n"
2550 END DEFine
  2510
   2530
   2540
  2550
  2500 :

2570 DEFine PROCedure Write to List

2580 PRINT #5, prior word$ : prior word$ = ' : caps set = 0

2590 END DEFine
  2600
  2600 :
2610 DEFine PROCedure Give to SpellBound(txt$)
2620 CALL add to q, CODE(txt$), 0,0,0,0,0,0,0, queue ptr
2630 REMark Should really check 'DO' for bad return (NC)
2640 REMark - meaning queue full, but unlikely the way we're set up
2650 END DEFine
  2660
  2660 :
2670 DEFine PROCedure Identify_Files_and_Options
2680 PAPER 2 : INK 7 : CLS
2690 PRINT "FileBound - Spelling Check from a file C.D. Jun '87
  2700
                      ipfnm$ = File_Name$('input', ', ', '6)
PRINT \ Are all new words in this file to be added to
PRINT TO 25; the dictionary (n/y): ';
INK 0 : INFUT cs : INK 7 .
teaching = ('y' == c$) : writing = 1 - teaching
IF NOI teaching
PRINT \ Do you want a list of new/errored words (n/y): ';
INK 0 : INFUT cs : INK 7 : END IF
list_reqd = ('y' == c$)
[F list_reqd : ('s' == c$)
IF list_reqd : lsfnm$ = File_Name$('listing',ipfnm$, ',3)
IF NOT teaching : opfnm$ = File_Name$('output',ipfnm$, lsfnm$, 6)
  2700
2710
2720
2730
2740
2750
2760
2770
  2800
  2810
  2820 :
                     OPEN_IN #3, ipfnm$
IF writing : DELETE opfnm$ : OPEN_NEW #4, opfnm$
  2830
             OPEN_IN #3, 1pfnm$
If writing: DELETE opfnm$: OPEN_NEW #4, opfnm$
If list reqd
IF NOT (('scr' INSTR lsfnm$ = 1) OR ('ser' INSTR lsfnm$ = 1) OR ('p
INSTR lsfnm$ = 1)
DELETE lsfnm$: END IF
OPEN_NEW #5, lsfnm$
END IF
  2840
  2860
  ar'
2870
  2880
  2890
 2900
2910
2920
2930
2940
2950
2960
2970
2980
2990
3000
3010
                  quill doc = Quill Format

IF quill doc

Write Char: Pass Thru CHR$(0): Pass Thru CHR$(0)

REMark Skip Quill file ident; header; footer

END IF

END DEFine
               :
DEFine Function File Names(txts,comp1s,comp2s,minlen%)
PRINT \TO 14; Enter ';txts;' file name in full: ';
INK 0: INPUT cs: INK 7
IF LEN(cs) < minlen%
PRINT 'Name too short - retry'
RETURN File Names(txts,comp1s,comp2s,minlen%): END [F
IF cs = comp1s OR cs = comp2s
PRINT 'Duplicate names - retry'
RETURN File Names(txts,comp1s,comp2s,minlen%): END [F
RETURN File Names(txts,comp1s,comp2s,minlen%): END [F
RETURN cs
 3050
3060
                      RETurn c$
END DEFine
  3080
3100 DEFine Function Quill_Format
3110 LOCal ii, wk$(20)
3120 PKINT \frac{1}{15} the input file in Quill "doc" format (y/n): \frac{1}{15};
3130 INK 0: INPUT as: INK 7;
3140 IF as == \frac{1}{15} : RETurn 0
3150 wks = CHR$(0)&CHR$(20)&\frac{1}{25} \text{vrmlqdf0}^\text{file}
```

```
a$ = ' : ii = 0

REPeat chk lp
    ii = 1i + 1 : IF ii > LEN(wk$) : EXIT chk lp
    if EOF(#3)
        CLOSE #3 : OPEN IN #3, ipfnm$ : RETurn 0 : END IF
    c$ = Next Chars
    a$ = a$ & c$
    If c$ <> wk$(ii)
        CLOSE #3 : OPEN IN #3, ipfnm$ : RETurn 0 : END IF
                                                                 IF cs <> wks(ii)
CLOSE #3: CDENN IN #3,ipfnms: RETurn 0: END IF
END REPeat chk lp
quill ptr = 0: para_tab_len = 0
FOR ii = 1 TO 10
cs = Next Chars
as = as & cs
SELect ON ii
= 1 TO 4: quill_ptr = 256*quill_ptr + CODE(cs)
= 5, 6: para_tab_len = 256*para_tab_len + CODE(cs)
END FOR ii
                                          3270
                                          3290
                                            3300
                                          3310
                                           3330
                                                                 HND SELect
END FOR i1

para tab ct = ((para_tab_len-8) / 14) - 1

para base = RESPR(para_tab_ct*4)

table space = para base
para pt = para base + 12 : REMark Skip Headings/Footings
FOR i1=0 TO 11 : POKE para base+ii, 0

ENTUR 1 | END DEFine
                                           3340
                                          3360
3370
3610
3620
3630
3640
3650
3660
3670
3680
3700
3710
3720
3730
3740
                                                        :
DEFine PROCedure Scan Para_Table
LOCal act paras
IF writing: Update_Paragraphs
REMark Any table in the block below is not adjusted
REPest wrapup_lp
IF EOF(#3): EXIT wrapup_lp
IF FOOT writing: a$ = Next_Char$: ELSE: PRINT #4; Next_Char$;
END REF at wrapup_lp
END DEFing
                                                        DEFine PROCedure Update_Paragraphs

FOR ii = 1 TO 3 : a$ = a$ & Next_Char$

FRINT #4;a$;

act_paras = 256*CODE(Next_Char$) +CODE(Next_Char$)

PRINT #4;Char Num$(act_paras,2);

FOR ii = 1 TO 16 : PRINT #4;Next_Char$;

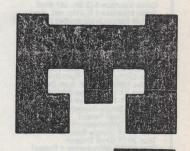
FOR ii = 1 TO para_tab_ct

IF ii > act_paras

FOR jj = 1 TO 14 : FRINT #4;Next_Char$;

ELSE

para_posn = 256^3*CODE(Next_Char$) + 256^2*CODE(Next_Char$
                                         3750
3760
3770
                                         3780
                                         3790
3800
                                       3860
3870
3880
FOR jj=1
3880
SEND FOR ii
3910
SEND FOR ii
3910
END DEFine
3920:
3930 DEFine Function Char_Num$(val,place)
3940 LOCal a, b
3950
IF place = 1: RETurn CHR$(val)
3960
a = INT(val/255^(place-1)): b = val - 256*a
RETurn CHR$(a) & Char_Num$(b,place-1)
3980
END DEFine
```







## CAMBRIDGE SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGY



24 Green Street, Stevenage, Herts SG1 3DS Telephone: Stevenage (0438) 352150

THOR 20
THOR 21
NEW MONITORS

**QDisc Interface** 

**RAM Plus** 

The Thor Computer System is a professional business machine designed with the user and his future requirements in mind. Cambridge Systems Technology have developed several models making the Thor extremely versatile: the single NEC 3.5in. floppy version with or without a 20M SCSI Winchester in addition to the dual floppy model packaged in a stylish metal case. The Thor is equipped with 640K RAM, parallel and serial printer ports, battery-backed clock and a separate IBM style (PC-AT) keyboard. Supplied free with the Thor is a specially commissioned version of the award winning Psion Xchange(\*) software suite and a comprehensive manual. Special features of the Thor include multitasking at a single key-stroke and enhanced screen windowing representing excellent value for money.

The Thor 20 Computer System is the newest development from Cambridge Systems Technology, the very latest in high-speed processing. Based on the Motorola MC68020 processor, the Thor 20 delivers on average three times the computing power of the Thor. It is available with a choice of two clock speeds: 12.5 MHz (standard) or 16.7 MHz. The Thor 20 package includes a suite of development software comprising a specially commissioned macro assembler by Talent Computer Systems and a linker by GST in addition to the Psion Xchange(\*) business software together with full supporting documentation. The Thor 20 Computer System provides a substantially higher performance than the Thor at a very cost-effective price.

The Thor 21 Computer System is designed for 'number crunching' applications. Based on the 68020 processor and additionally incorporating the MC68881 floating point coprocessor, the performance of floating point operations are dramatically improved — taking only 1% of the time taken without the coprocessor. This system is essential for a wide range of scientific and engineering applications and only costs an additional £201.25 (inc VAT).

CST now offer a choice of monochrome or colour monitor suitable for use with the Thor range of computers. The Microvitec 1451/DQT 14" colour monitor includes interface lead and a tilt and swivel base. The Phillips 7502 12" monitor has a dark anti-glare screen, horizontal/vertical size adjustment, position adjustment, brightness and contrast adjustment and a foldable foot. Both of these monitors have been selected by CST from the wide array of available monitors for their superior performance and reliability when used with the Thor computer range.

The best-selling floppy disk interface is fitted with a 16K EPROM containing many 'Toolkit' extensions, and CST's Ram Drive 2. It may be used with most 3.5 or 5.25 floppy disc drives. CST's own twin slimline double sided 80 track 3.5 units being exceptional value for money, with 720K of formatted storage per drive. The Toolkit provides a wide range of SuperBASIC commands nunctions designed to improve access to the powerful facilities of the QL without the need for machine-code programming. Job control is made easier, files can be used for random access, alternative character sets can be produced, 'wild cards' can be used in file operations, etc.

The Ram Drive device driver allows free memory to be used as though it were a very high speed disc, in fact the fastest such device when used with the RAM-plus. Ideally used for the storage of temprary results, or multiple screen images for animated displays, it also eases the copying of files in single disc systems. The Ram Drive can only use memory which is free, so the full advantage is only felt if the QL is equipped with additional memory. Built into QDisc 4 and Thor, the Ram Drive is also available on 3.5in. and 5.25in. floppy disc.

The CST RAM-plus unit expands the available memory of the QL to the limit of 640K. Using high grade 256K memory devices, this unit is the only one which offers the high performance of no waitstate operation. Housed in a rugged metal case, the RAM-plus unit has an expansion slot which duplicates the QL's, allowing any other CST peripheral to be used. Among the advantages derived from using the RAM-plus are the performance improvements of software and storage devices, and the ability to multitask several programs at once.

\* Xchange is a Trade Mark of Psion Ltd.

Please supply:-	UK in	VAT	Over	seas
Odisc Interface 4 (3.5in. util disc) Odisc Interface 4 (5.25in. util. disc) Odisc Interface 4 (5.25in. util. disc) OEP-III Eprom programmer (QL/THOR) RAM-Plus 512K QL memory CST Dual 3.5in. cassed floppy discs CST Q-488 GPIB instrument interface CST ODISC SCSI interface Odisc 4 + dual 3.5in drives Odisc 4 + dual 3.5in drives Odisc 4 + RAM-plus + dual 3.5in. discs 3.5in Utility disc inc. Ram Drive 2 5.25in. Ut	£139.95 £219.95 £224.25 £230.00 £275.00 £405.00 £10.00 £15.00 £15.00 £88.85 £1608.85 £1292.60 £1407.60 £2212.60 £1493 £1493 £1608.85		F72.70 F72.80 £116.00 £125.20 £200.40 £198.40 £203.40 £203.40 £10.00 £10.00 £15.00 £15.00 £650.00 1179.00 1179.00 1179.00 1179.00 1179.00 1179.00 1154.00 1154.00 1154.00	
For the Thor Range: Phillips Monitor (Monochrome) Microvitee Monitor (Colour) + Tilt Stan Additional 12m Service contract (1F & Additional 12m Service Contract (WF) Beige Mouse Psion Chess			£80.83 £256.52 £75.00 £100.00 £57.60 £22.70	
	Export administration Airmail outside Europe		5.00	
Prices are inclusive of carriage CST reserve the right to alter prices and	d specifications without p	prior not	ice	

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# Thor XVI Announced at the PCW Show

Both customers and dealers showed great interest in CST's latest project, the Thor XVI. Built around Motorola's 16 bit MC68000 chip, it incorporates all new hardware and while fully QL compatible has none of the limitations associated with the 8 bit QL board.

While visiting the CST stand Sir Clive Sinclair was able to inspect the prototype Thor XVI. Commenting on the "beefy" 68000 chip he said he was "definitely interested" in the developments and progress made by CST.

Amongst the new Thor's innovations, the system is capable of providing up to 6.5 Mb of RAM, a 20 or 40 Mb Winchester hard disc and up to two floppy drives. operating system has been streamlined to make full use of the Thor XVI's powerful hardware facilities, while retaining the advanced features of the Thor 1, including the screen windowing system, Ram Drives, floppy disc software QJump and from SPEEDSCREEN Creative CodeWorks (see seperate article).

#### Projections

CST's proprietor, David Oliver said that he expected production of the XVI to start at the end of the year. Pricing was expected to start at around £100 (ex VAT) above the equivalent 8 bit Thor model.

Other items which attracted particular attention at the show were the Psion Thor Championship Chess, Digital Precision's Desktop Publishing System and the Thor 21 running high speed floating point maths, and even Z80 BBC Rasic via a CP/M emulator.

Much interest was also shown in graphics demonstration software, the Xchange suite and (of course) the Marlow Bar (opposite the stand) and - amongst the younger enthusiasts - the ubiquitous bright yellow Thor balloons.

#### Upgrade Path for QL Owners

CST continue to support QL enthusiasts wishing to upgrade their system to a Thor, by offering a £70 trade-in on QL's (in' working order!). CST customers with Qdiscs, 3.5" disc drives and RAM-pluses should contact CST for a quotation.



Sir Clive discusses the Thor with David Oliver and Dansofts' Helmuth Stuven.

### New ROMs at PCW Show

Two system expansion ROMs for the Thor were shown at the PCW show. These are both available now and can be fitted by your local dealer.

The InterLogic INTROM I from Denmark integrates the Talent Screen Editor, QJump's Toolkit II and Digital Precision's Turbo Toolkit SuperBASIC extensions and Buvex's Thor Dump screen dump into one package costing £49.45.

Creative CodeWorks' SPEEDSCREEN rom by Simon Goodwin improves screen text output in mode 4 by

3 to 12 times (depending on colour etc.) at all times. SPEEDSCREEN will be the standard screen driver on the Thor XVI. Packaged together with a disc providing enhanced 72 pixel founts the rom is priced at £29.90.

SPEEDSCREEN is also available on disk or cartridge for the QL at £20.00.

For further details, contact CST on 0438-352150.

All trademarks are acknowledged.



Next Month: Further Details on THOR XVI

# SUPER BASIC

PART

Most computer programs involve the manipulation of data but the poor provision of data structures and associated commands in Basic leads many people to believe that the subject begins and ends with simple arrays. In this major series. Mike Lloyd explores the subject of data, its structure and its manipulation.

efore computers, data was called information. There is so much information around us that occasionally we do not recognise it for what it is and rarely analyse its structures and conventions. Because computer programs spend so much of their time using, storing, generating and manipulating information, the whole subject of data has been thoroughly researched in the last 20 years and powerful data management techniques have been developed.

This article is the first in a series which will tackle indepth a subject which will perhaps be completely new to many readers – computer data structures. As there are so few books and articles widely available on the topic, *SuperBasic* will start from first principles by examining the attributes of data in general.

Data is a concept which everyone seems to understand but which defies simple definition. Dictionary definitions explain that data is the representation of the attributes of things. A car can be described by its make, model name, colour, engine size, seating capacity and so on, and those facts constitute data. A subtle but important distinction is that, in computer science at least, data is not the actual attributes being described but the description of them.

Data can be stored and transmitted, which might not be possible for the attributes being described. A computer cannot store the capacity of a car engine but it can represent it with the string "1300cc". Some things can be understood only in terms of their data. The workings of a 68008 microprocessor are too fast for human comprehension and are invisible to the eye but the chip can be described as having a 32-bit internal architecture which runs at a speed of 7.5MHz.

To make certain there is no confusion between data and what it represents, the real attributes which data describes are referred to as data content. Data can be expressed in many ways without misrepresenting the data content; twelve, 12, XII

and *dozen* all refer to the same quantity.

Beyond the simple dictionary definition of data there are other factors of great importance to a thorough understanding of the subject. An obvious point is that data, being plural, refers to a collection of information. Some pieces of information are completely unconnected, for instance the average age of QL users and the proverbial price of fish, and they would not commonly be described collectively as data. Related information forms a definite entity, referred to as a data set. The relationships between elements in the data set form the basis of the data structure.

Incidentally, data is one of those words which cannot decide whether to be singular of plural. Strictly speaking, it should be plural because there is a perfectly serviceable but little-used word, datum, which represents one item of data. "The data is correct" seems preferable to "the data are correct". Rather than be pedantic, SuperBasic has succumbed to popular usage.

A telephone directory is a good example of a data set. Each element in the data, in this instance the information relating to an individual subscriber, is a record. Within each record the information is divided into sub-groups called fields. Telephone directory entries each have four fields – the subscriber's name, the address, the exchange and the telephone number.

The human mind is very accomplished at assimilating data but the process is heuristic and it is often carriedout subconsciously. In other words, the brain associates information with rules which have been previously learned and through frequent practice the process becomes second nature. The advantages of structuring data can be demonstrated by imagining learning the multiplication tables in a completely random order. Even though the information is exactly the same as that learned by rote in primary school, the task might well prove insurmountable.

Computers also need rules to manage data but in Basic most of the rules have to be specially programmed; other languages are favoured with much more sophisticated data structures and associated commands. Unfortunately there is no computing parallel to the ability of the brain to learn from experience and carry-out tasks subconsciously.

For information to have order, its elements must have value. This is particularly relevent in computing, because everything in a computer memory is stored numerically. A poem contains information and has structure but its contents are not easily-assigned values and therefore a poem is not a good example of data and computers are not very good poets. A catalogue of poetry books classified by author, publishing house, subject matter and date of publication has all the characteristics of a data set because comparisons and evaluations of the individual entries are possible.

Some data has a natural structure as the digits 1-9 on a keyboard are arranged naturally in ascending order so that their inter-relation-

ships are obvious. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for the alphabetical keys. Some data sets can be displayed in a variety of ways. The organisation chart in figure one is laid out to show the hierarchy of control in a company, known as its functional structure. The same information could be presented in other ways to meet other requirements - in the form of a site plan to identify office locations, or alphabetically in a telephone index.

On the other hand, some data does not have a natural structure and therefore must have one imposed on it. The ordering of letters in the alphabet is consistent but it is entirely arbitrary, allowing words to be placed in alphabetical order and retrieved from a list relatively simply.

Sometimes the organisation of data infers information which is not stated explicitly. Football League tables could be listed alphabetically for ease of reference but they would not then convey the relative positions of the teams readily. Other similar data structures include the record charts, bus timetables and calendars.

#### Dynamic data set

The First Division is an example of a static data set because although the position of its elements keeps changing there are always the same number of teams. A telephone directory, on the other hand, is a dynamic data set because it grows and shrinks as insertions and deletions are made, even though the information it contains is never fundamentally re-ordered.

Static data sets are readily stored in arrays but dynamic data sets are more difficult to program. The absence of dynamic data structures in Basic is one of its major shortcomings but one which can be corrected by the programmer.

As well as content and structure, other important attributes of data for computing purposes are its acuity, accuracy and density. The acuity of data refers to its vagueness, or lack of it; "acidic" is an imprecise, but true, description of a liquid with a pH balance of 2.45. Sadly, computers are inherently very precise and rarely vague about anything.

There is a clear distinction between the acuity and the accuracy of data. If the pH balance of a liquid is given as 2.45 when it is really 1.79, the datum is not vaguely correct but precisely incorrect. Computers often store values to ridiculous extremes of spurious accuracy or find it impossible to express a number correctly.

#### **Binary fractions**

The conversion of decimal fractions into binary fractions in particular can lead

example of densely-packed information, because those two letters stand for the potential of hydrogen, which is equal to the common logarithm of the reciprocal of the concentration of hydrogen molecules per cubic centimetre of a solution.

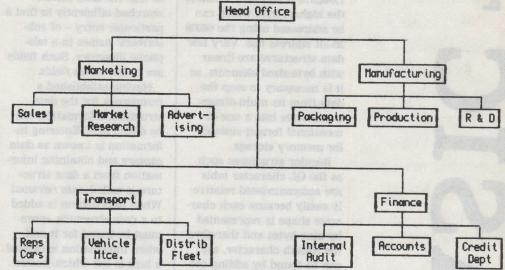
#### **Base month**

A common example of the advantages of compressing data is the way a date can be held in computer memory. At its least dense, the date could be a 14-byte string such as "12 August 1987" but the same date can be represented in two bytes, the last five bits representing the day of the month and the remaining 11 bits representing the month and year as an offset from a chosen base month. This sys-

order of information system on which other data structures are based and it is often taken for granted. Misreading "Stretford" for "Stratford" will cause a letter to be misdirected even if the address is correct. In computing terms, a low-level error has corrupted a high-level data operation.

Hierarchies of data systems can be complex in computing. To display a character selected from a string array, for instance, a binary number is interpreted as an ASCII value, the shape of the character is obtained from a 9-byte binary image stored in the ROM font and the screen map is amended to display the shape using the current paper and ink colours and the print position obtained from

Figure 1. The Utterly Structured Data Corporation



to significant inaccuracies and again Basic is illequipped to deal with the problem compared to some other languages. Some things, such as the acidity of a substance, can never be expressed with total accuracy because there will always be an extra decimal place which can be added to express an extra degree of precision but discreet values such as integers can be handled more precisely.

#### Densely packed

The density of data indicates how much information is stored in a specific portion of memory or conveyed by a certain number of symbols. The acronym pH is an

tem can represent any date in a period of 170 years.

Data sets are rarely viewed in isolation. To make sense of them, other data sets and other rules and relationships might need to be understood. The ability of the brain to absorb information and to take in the underlying data structures is phenomenal, even when considering something simple like someone's address. What we call an address on an envelope will now be recognised as being nothing of the kind; it is the representation of an address and a good example of data.

To understand an address, a postman must first be able to read. Reading is a lower a system variable table. In all, four data structures are involved.

Returning to the interpretation of an address, a postman must also be aware that geographical entities such as roads, districts, counties and countries exist and that they are given names

#### **Concentric entities**

It is also important to know that these entities are concentric, i.e., that a road is in a district, a district is in a county, and so on. The relationship is reflected in the structure of an address;



each line of the address expands on its predecessor.

A postman must finally be aware that 15 Acacia Road lies between 13 and 17 Acacia Road. Without an understanding of the concepts of addresses and basic concepts of language and numbers, letters could not be delivered accurately.

Having expounded the general nature of data structures, the characteristics of

computer-based data sets can be examined. Basic has only one data structure, arrays, which tends to limit a programmer's imagination when defining a data structure.

Although automatically-defined Basic arrays might be ideal for some applications, in many circumstances there are worthwhile advantages to be gained from abandoning them and building a user-defined data storage area in memory space reserved with the RESPR command. The techniques involved will be introduced later in the series.

A persistent problem with computer memory is that it is essentially linear; it starts at address 0 and, in the case of the QL, continues sequentially until memory address 1,048,575 is reached, which is the highest byte which can be addressed using the 68008 20-bit address bus. Very few data structures are linear with byte-sized elements, so it is necessary to map the data from its multi-dimensional state into a one-dimensional format suitable for memory storage.

Regular structures such as the QL character table are accommodated relatively easily because each character shape is represented by nine bytes and therefore the fiftieth character, say, can be found by adding the result of (50-1) \*9 to the table start address.

Irregular structures such as a SuperBasic program are more difficult to map. The fiftieth program line can be found only by recording the number of bytes each each line occupies at the beginning of each line, so that the address of the next pointer is the current address plus the contents of that address, and then hopping from pointer to pointer until the target line is reached.

The efficiency of data structures can be measured in two ways – by the amount of memory they require and by the speed with which data processes, particularly data retrieval, are carried-out. Most data structures involve a compromise between those two performance ideals and the choice of structure will depend on the nature of the application

Although the scope for organising data seems to be almost unlimited there are surprisingly few operations which can be carried-out on data. Basically, data structures can be defined, updated, sorted, traced, compressed and searched.

Defining the format of a data structure involves determining the parameters of the records and fields in which the information will be stored and establishing any pointers and subsidiary structures which may be necessary. Normally at least one of the fields is ordered so that the data can be searched efficiently to find a particular entry - of subscribers' names in a telephone directory. Such fields are called access fields.

Having established a framework for the data structure, information can be added to it. Entering information is known as. data capture and obtaining information from a data structure is called data retrieval. When information is added to a data structure, space must be found for it and when information is deleted a hole is left which wastes space. Data management programs therefore normally include routines to allocate memory space efficiently and to re-cycle space where data is no longer current. The latter task is inevitably known as garbage collection.

Unless data can be accessed readily a data structure is of limited value. A dictionary in which the entries occur at random would contain exactly the same information as its alphabetical counterpart but the inability to find a given entry quickly would make it almost useless. The methods of calculating where in a structure specific records are located are known as access algo-

rithms. In simple, regular structures such as the character table already discussed the calculation is straightforward but in complex data structures access algorithms become correspondingly complicated.

Through the years, programmers have researched extensively the problems of sorting data into order. Four sorting routines were published in the Better Basic feature in the January, 1987 issue of Sinclair QL World. By the application of some lateral thinking, efficient alternatives to alphanumerical sorting have been developed which have had important consequences for data structure design. More sorting routines and some of the alternatives will be covered in future SuperBasic articles.

A process sometimes associated with ordering is tracing, the ability to access all of the elements in a structure. As with access algorithms, tracing is relatively straightforward until data structures which are more complex than arrays are encountered. Imagine the algorithm required to access all the departments shown in the company hierarchy tree in figure one, for example.

Any process which makes data more compact is called data compression. One example is the way keywords are represented in the QL program storage area by a twobyte value rather than by their full name. This saves a considerable amount of space but the translation process takes so much time that loading a SuperBasic program is considerably slower than loading the equivalent compiled task. In a data structure, the entries which appear most frequently can be listed in a subsidiary table and referred to in the main data area by their positions in that table.

 Next month's SuperBasic begins a much more detailed look at the huge subject of data structures and starts by examining vectors and arrays.

## FRONT PAGE 2

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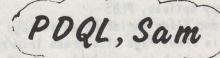
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# OFTWAREFILE

Stephen Applebaum reviews a new offering from Byteback Software and finds it witty, difficult and entertaining. How could anyone ask for more?

Quest for the Dragon Sword Published by Byteback Software Price: £14.95

Claire is not the kind of name one would expect an adventurer to have. Rod, Butch or Rex would be acceptable but Claire?, Claire is the epithet with which the would-be hero in Quest for the Dragon Sword, a surprisingly good Quilled adventure. has been lumbered.

You would think growing-up with a girl's name would have made our hero strong in character and resolve - just look at what it did for the boy named Sue but not Claire. All his life he has been the butt of jokes and has not realised it; thick skin and an equally thick skull have protected him from his fellow adventurers' redicule.

Quest for the Dragon Sword follows Claire on a mission so fraught with danger that no other adventurer would tackle it. Ignorant of the trials which lay ahead, our hero is sent to the isle of Zethus, a once-pleasant spot which has fallen prey to the Dragon-Witch. an evil hag possessed of the power to transmute into a dragon at will.

Before the arrival of the Dragon-Witch on Zethus, the island belonged to the Du Bois family, which, has since disappeared. There is still hope for Zethus, and possibly the Du Bois, if they are not already dead. For scattered round the island are the broken remains of the Dragon sword, an imple-

ment capable of dealing with any dragon's scales. Claire's only hope of survival, therefore, is to find the broken pieces of sword, re-assemble them, and kill the Dragon-Witch.

The Quest for the Dragon Sword is in two parts. In the first you must find the pieces of sword and in the second find the house where the Dragon-Witch abides and destroy

Finding the remnants of the sword involves an extensive search of Zethus. Moving about is extremely easy, since directions can be input in their abbreviated forms, i.e. N for north and S for south, SW for south-west and so on. Most actions can be performed using commands requiring very little typing. When you enter a location containing several useful objects, you need only to type 'GET ALL' to pick up everything, rather than specify each object in turn.

Quest for the Dragon

Sword has a 200-word dictionary, which is small compared to some other adventures. It is frustrating trying to perform an action which you know you must do but cannot do because you have not found the correct combination of words, a problem symptomatic of a limited dictionary.

As you would expect, Zethus is inhabited by numerous wierd characters some malevolent, others less so. A stuffed fish called Descartes is a potential ally but I found it impossible to communicate with him because I could not find the correct combination of words to

If it is possible to talk to other characters and I am sure it is. Byteback Software should have included instructions on how to do so in the list of commands supplied with the program documentation.

Locations on Zethus include a diamond mine, a hot air balloon, a native

village and a gnome's house. In the diamond mine you can join a guided tour, which makes it far easier to traverse what is in effect a maze but misses the juicy locations where objects crucial to your quest are hidden.

Although I did not reach the bloody ending. Byteback informs me that the climactic battle with the Dragon-Witch involves a complex fight sequence in which you must dodge and parry the dragon's attack. If you can survive the beast's fiery breath. the lash of its tail and several attempts to crush you, the name of Claire will echo around the adventurers' guild for evermore. If you fail, you will be remembered with a sneering "I told you so".

Quest for the Dragon Sword is witty, difficult and entertaining, and certainly a good deal more professional-looking than many other adventures written using Quill.



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3 9 10 14 16 18 19 23 24 28 29 32 33 36 41 42 44 45

• Figure 1, the QL board numbering system with border

e will be building the skeleton of our program this month. The skeleton framework will include the board set-up, all the input/output routines and a number of necessary associated procedures and functions.

One of the first decisions must be the data structures we are to use and the most fundamental is the board; although draughts is played on a 64-square board, only 32 of the squares are ever used. Consequently it would seem sensible to store only those positions. A little foresight about the time when we write our move-generating routine indicates that having a stored board border is useful. The resulting data structure is a 45-ele ment array which maps on to the board as shown in figure 1.

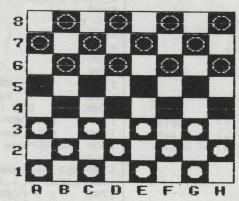
If you examine this set-up you will notice that any standard move can be generated by adding and subtracting either four or five. The array board will hold this structure for the current game position. Elements in the array are assigned values for the various pieces as given in the "init-constants" procedure in figure 5. The initial board position is defined in the "init-board" procedure.

#### **User** input

The "input-move" procedure is used to get moves from a player for the colour "col" either -1 for black or +1 for white. Entering numbers based on our "board" structure is not particularly user-friendly. Consequently a more standard A-H x-co-ordinate and 1-8 y-co-ordinate system is used figure 2. That is then converted into a

number between six and 40 on the "board" by the function "str-to-int".

Moves are prompted for as "From: "followed by a succession of "To: "inputs. They are terminated by entering zero, "0". As explained in the first article — October, 1987 — no attempt has been made to produce elaborate graphics or user input. Very few checks are made, initially sufficient only to ensure that valid square types



• Figure 2, the A-H, 1-8 user input system

are entered. Similarly, the board display — the "print-board" procedure is fairly rudimentary, being sufficient to play the game. Anybody wishing to extend the procedures should find no difficulty with the modular program design.

As moves are entered by players the computer must somehow determine whether or not the move is valid. To do this it compares the input sequence to a list of valid moves, cre ated by the "generate-moves" routine. That will generate all the possible moves by player "col" from the position given by "board".

As in standard draughts, no huffing is allowed. In other words, if it is possible to capture an opponent's piece you must do so. If there is more than one possible capture you may L choose between them. That is handled by the true/false "jump-found" variable. If it becomes set only jump moves are considered.

Unlike such games as chess, moves in draughts have a variable length. A normal move will have a "From" square and a "To" square. A single jump will require the removal of a piece between those two squares. A second jump will have a further "To" square and the removal of another piece from the board, and so on.

#### **Move structure**

If we were to hold each possible move in an identical data structure, such as, say, the rows of a two-dimensional array, we would have to allow for possibly as many as six to eight jumps in a move and much space would be wasted. What we really need is some form of list structure but because none of the normal insert and delete list operations is necessary, a one-dimensional array compromise is used.

In all cases, at least three elements of the list will be used. The first element always contains the length of the move in the list — three for normal moves — which can be used as an offset to the next possible move when searching the list. The second element holds the "From" square and the third element holds the "To" square. Thus a standard move would

be represented by the three element list in figure 3.

If a jump is made the next element holds the type of piece removed from the board. That permits us to move backwards and forwards through a sequence of moves without losing any pieces along the way. Note that there is no need to hold the board position from which the piece is re moved, as that will be ("From" + "To")/2. Look again at the board layout in figure one if you are not convinced.

So, for a single jump, the first array value will be increased to four, i.e., four elements used. Any further jumps will be added as two elements

Length of Move
'From' Square
'To' Square

 Figure 3, a section of the data list for a normal (no jump) move

• Figure 5, see listing below

used. Any further jumps will be added as two elements giving the next "To" square and the value of the piece to be removed. Consequently jump moves require:

2 + 2 \* number of pieces jumped Elements of the array, including the first offset element, are shown in figure 4.

The "generate-moves" procedure calls two further procedures; "no-jump" is fairly self-explanatory, adding all normal moves from square "sq0", using moves "k1" to "k2" from the array "m"; seethe "init-vars" procedure, with colour "col". The "jump" function is a little more complex. the "jump-num" parameter, set initially

```
100 REMark ** AI DRAUGHTS **
110 REMark *** PROGRAM ***
120 :
130 init_constants
140 init_vars
150 init_board
160 REFeat loop
170
      input_move(-1)
      input_move(+1)
180
190 END REPeat loop
200 :
210 REMark **********************
220 :
1000 DEFine PROCedure init_constants
        bking = -2 : \\ empty = 0 :
1010
                        black = -1
                        bordr = 9
1020
        wking = +2 : white = +1
1030
        TRUE = -1: FALSE = 0
1040
1050 END DEFine init_constants
1060:
1070 DEFine PROCedure init_vars
1080 LOCal i
1090
        RESTORE
1100
        DIM board (45), move_list(200)
1110
        DIM m(6)
        FOR i = 1 TO 6 : READ m(i)
1120
        DATA +4,+5,-4,-5,+4,+5
1130
1140 END DEFine init_vars
1150 :
1160 DEFine PROCedure init_board
1170 LOCal i
        FOR i = 6 TO 40 : board(i) = empty
FOR i = 6 TO 18 : board(i) = black
1180
1190
1200
        FOR i = 28 \text{ TO } 40 : board(i) = white}
        FOR i = 1 TO 5
1210
           board(i) = bordr
1220
1230
            board(i+40) = bordr
            board(9*i-4) = bordr
1240
1250
        END FOR i
1260 END DEFine init board
1270 :
1280 DEFine PROCedure input_move(col)
1290 LOCal t_list(50), mess$, illegal, sq$, t_top
         illegal = FALSE
1300
1310
         top = 1 : generate_moves(col)
         mess$=""
1320
 1330
         REPeat get_move
 1340
            print_board
            INK 2 : PRINT \mess$\\
 1350
 1360
            REPeat get_from_sqr
               INPUT "From: ";sq$
 1370
                t_list(2) = str_to_int(sq$)
 1380
                IF illegal THEN
 1390
 1400
                   PRINT "Illegal square: ";sq$
 1410
               ELSE
                   EXIT get_from_sqr
 1420
 1430
               END IF
 1440
            END REPeat get_from_sqr
 1450
            t_{top} = 3
```

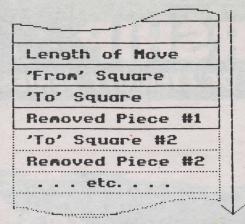
```
1460
            REPeat get_to_sqr
               INPUT "To: ";sq4
IF sq$="0" THEN
1470
                           ":sa$
1480
1490
                  EXIT get_to_sqr
1500
               ELSE
                   t list(t_top) = str_to_int(sq$)
1510
                   IF illegal THEN
1520
1530
                      PRINT "Illegal square: ";sq$
1540
1550
                      t_{top} = t_{top} + 2
1560
                   END IF
1570
               END IF
            END REPeat get_to_sqr
1580
1590
            t_{top} = 1
            REPeat check_legality
1600
               IF t_top >= top THEN
  mess$ = "Illegal move. Try again
1610
1620
1630
                   NEXT get move
               FND IF
1640
1650
               FOR i = t_top+1,t_top+2 TO t_top+mo
e_list(t_top)-1 STEP 2
                   IF move_list(i) <> t_list(i-t_to)
1660
+1) THEN
                   t_top = t_top + move_list(t_te
1670
p)
1680
                      NEXT check_legality
1690
                   END IF
               END FOR i
1700
1710
               EXIT get_move
            END REPeat check_legality
1720
         END REPeat get_move
1730
1740
         make_move(t_top)
1750 END DEFine input_move
1760
1770 DEFine FuNction str_to_int(x$)
1780 LOCal x,y,z
1790
         x = CODE(x$(1))-64
         IF (x<1) OR (x>8) THEN illegal=TRUE : RET
1800
rn 0
1810
         y = 8 - (CODE(x$(2))-48)
         IF (y<0) OR (y>7) THEN illegal=TRUE : RET
1820
rn 0
1830
         z = 10 * y + x
         RETurn (z DIV 2) - (z DIV 20) + 5
1840
1850 END DEFine str_to_int
1860 :
1870 DEFine PROCedure make_move(index)
1880 LOCal m_len,i,sq0,sq1
         m len = move_list(index)
1890
         move_list(index) = move_list(index+1)
FOR i = 1 TO (m_len-1) DIV 2
1900
1910
1920
            sq0 = move_list(index)
1930
             sq1 = move_list(index+2)
1940
             board(sq1) = board(sq0)
             board(sq0) = empty
IF ABS(sq0-sq1) > 5 THEN
1950
 1960
1970
                board((sq0+sq1)/2) = empty
             END IF
1980
```

to one, holds the number of pieces jumped in a single move. If a one-piece jump is found, the "t-list" structure, is updated, the move is made on "board", and the function calls itself recursively to see whether further jumps are possible.

When this is no longer the case i.e., NOT(jump) is true, the present "t-list" structure and the computer drops out of one level of the recursive calls. Though possibly not immediately obvious this will ensure that copies of all possible jump sequences are included in the final "move-list".

Our skeleton program is now complete but does not allow the computer

Figure 4, the data list for jump moves

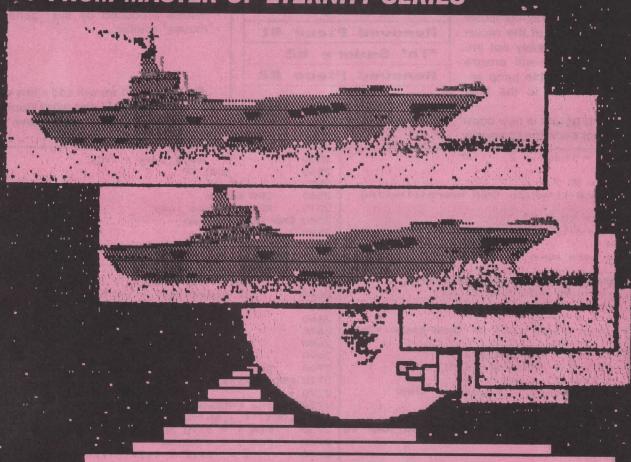


to play the game. Instead, lines 160 to 190 have been included temporarily. This infinite loop allows you to play yourself or a friend, alternating between black and white moves. It also allows you to convince yourself that the program is operating correctly, as all moves will be checked by comparison against the list of legal moves produced by the "generate moves" routine.

Next month we will add a few evaluation features to see what standard of play the program can achieve with a one-move lookahead.

```
1990
           index = index + 2
                                                       2530
                                                                         poss_jump = TRUE
        END FOR i
2000
                                                       2540
                                                                     END IF
2010
        FOR i = 6 TO 9
                                                       2550
                                                                  END IF
           IF board(i)=white THEN board(i)=wking
2020
                                                       2560
                                                               END FOR k
        END FOR i
2030
                                                       2570
                                                               RETurn poss jump
        FOR i = 37 \text{ TO } 40
2040
                                                       2580 END DEFine jump
2050
           IF board(i)=black THEN board(i)=bking
                                                       2590
2060
        END FOR i
                                                       2600 DEFine PROCedure no_jump(sq0,k1,k2,col)
2070 END DEFine make_move
                                                       2610 LOCal k, sq1
2080 :
                                                       2620
                                                               FOR k = k1 TO k2
                                                                  sq1 = sq0 + m(k)
2090 DEFine PROCedure generate_moves(col)
                                                       2630
2100
     LOCal t_list(100), sq0, jump_found
                                                       2640
                                                                  IF board(sq1) = empty THEN
        jump_found = FALSE
2110
                                                       2650
                                                                     move_list(top)
        FOR sq0 = 6 TO 40
2120
                                                       2660
                                                                     move_list(top+1) = sq0
           IF (board(sq0)=col) OR (board(sq0)=2*co
2130
                                                       2670
                                                                     move_list(top+2) = sq1
1) THEN
                                                       2680
                                                                     top = top + 3
2140
               k1 = 2 + SGN(board(sq0))
                                                       2690
                                                                  END IF
               k2 = 2 * ABS(board(sq0)) + k1 - 1
2150
                                                       2700
                                                               END FOR k
               t list(1) = sq0
2160
                                                       2710 END DEFine no jump
               IF jump(sq0,k1,k2,col,1) THEN
2170
                                                       2720 :
2180
                  jump_found = TRUE
                                                       2730 DEFine PROCedure print_board
                                                       2740 LOCal i,j,pb(78)
2190
               ELSE
2200
                 IF NOT jump_found THEN no_jump sq
                                                       2750
                                                               FOR i = 1 TO 78 : pb(i) = bordr
0, k1, k2, col
                                                       2760
                                                               FOR i = 6 TO 40
2210
               END IF
                                                       2770
                                                                  j = (2*i) + ((2*(i-1))) DIV 9) - 11
2220
           END IF
                                                       2780
                                                                  pb(j) = board(i)
        END FOR sq0
2230
                                                       2790
                                                               END FOR i
2240 END DEFine generate_moves
                                                       2800
                                                               PAPER 4 : CLS
                                                               FOR i = 1 TO 8
2250
                                                       2810
                                                                  INK 2 : PRINT CHR$(57-i); " ";
2260 DEFine FuNction jump(sq0,k1,k2,col,jump_num)
                                                       2820
                                                                  FOR j = 1 TO 8
2270 LOCal k,j,poss_jump,sq1,sq2
                                                       2830
2280
        poss_jump = FALSE
                                                       2840
                                                                     PRINT piece$(pb(10*(i-1)+j));"";
        FOR k = k1 TO k2
2290
                                                       2850
                                                                  END FOR j
            sq1 = sq0 + m(k)
2300
                                                       2860
                                                                  PRINT
              (board(sq1)=-col) OR (board(sq1)=-2*
                                                       2870
2310
                                                               END FOR i
                                                               INK 2 : PRINT " A B C D E F G H"
col)
     THEN
                                                       2880
2320
               sq2 = sq1 + m(k)
                                                       2890 END DEFine print_board
2330
               IF board(sq2) = empty THEN
                                                       2900
                  IF NOT jump_found THEN
                                                       2910 DEFine FuNction piece$(type)
2340
                                                               SELect ON type
                     jump_found = TRUE
2350
                                                       2920
2360
                     top = 1
                                                       2930
                                                                  ON type = bordr
2370
                  END IF
                                                       2940
                                                                     RETurn " "
                                                       2950
2380
                  t_list(2*jump_num)
                                        = 502
                                                                  ON type = empty
                  t_list(2*jump_num+1) = board(sq1)
2390
                                                       2960
                                                                     INK 2 : RETurn "."
2400
                  board(sq2) = board(sq0)
                                                       2970
                                                                  ON type = black
                  board(sq1) = empty
                                                       2980
2410
                                                                      INK 0 : RETurn "O"
                  board(sq0) = empty
2420
                                                       2990
                                                                  ON type = bking
2430
                  IF NOT(jump(sq2,k1,k2,col,jump_nu
                                                       3000
                                                                     INK 0 : RETurn "X"
m+1)) THEN
                                                       3010
                                                                  ON type = white
2440
                     move_list(top) = 2 + 2 * jump_
                                                       3020
                                                                     INK 7 : RETurn "D"
                                                                  ON type = wking
num
                                                       3030
                     FOR j = 1 TO 2 * jump_num + 1
2450
                                                       3040
                                                                      INK 7 : RETurn "X"
2460
                        move_list(top+j) = t_list(j
                                                       3050
                                                               END SELect
                                                       3060 END DEFine piece$
2470
                                                       3070
                     END FOR i
                                                       3080 DEFine FuNction SGN(x)
2480
                     top = top + move_list(top)
                  END IF
                                                               IF x<0 THEN RETurn -1
2490
                                                       3090
2500
                  board(sq0) = board(sq2)
                                                       3100
                                                               IF x>0 THEN RETurn +1
2510
                                                       3110
                                                               RETurn 0
                  board(sq1) = t list(2*jump_num+1)
                                                      3120 END DEFine SGN
2520
                  board(sq2) = empty
```

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Colin Opie finds the answers to your technical problems

# TELHNICAL

## Specific bouncing

I bought a Schon QL keyboard some months ago, with the promise that improved keys would be provided later. Despite several telephone calls they have not yet arrived. In the meantime, this version of the Schon keyboard has a pleasant feel to the key action, as described in your March issue, but multiple characters are a constant plague, suggesting presumably that the trouble is key

You state that can be alleviated by some POKE operations but as I am not a machine code whizz kid and am warned in the QL manual against POKEing into Qdos, I should be glad of very specific instructions. In POKE W 163980,n what are the units for n? Is n in milliseconds? And to defeat bounce should one make n larger, say n = 50 or so? Similarly, in the character repeat facility POKE W 163982,n what is n? Since it defaults to 2, it may be characters per second. What value should I try there? Must it be integer, e.g., 1, or can one try a decimal, e.g., 1.5. Further, are such changes, once made, permanently locked-in until changed again? My cursor flashes at about two per second and if I hold down a key I get about 20 characters per second. Does the POKE operation first display the existing settings for n before one makes a change, so that, if necessary one can restore the status quo.

> J. W. Boag, Sutton, Surrey.

There have been a number of enquiries about the Schon keyboard and the use of the keyboard delay and repeat values in the system variables list. Boag's enquiry prompts an explanation.

The two system variables in which we are interested are:

Name
AUTOREPEAT DELAY
AUTOREPEAT FREQUENCY

Both values are, in machine language jargon, words – or 16-bit values. As such they can assume a value between 0 and 65535. They cannot be programmed with decimal values such as 1.5 because only integer values can be PEEKed and POKEd into the variable space.

As they are 16-bit word values we will always use the statements PEEK-W(location) or POKE-W location, value. They are not related to such things as characters/second but are arbitrarily pre-set values to give a reasonable response to the QL keyboard — not too fast and not too slow.

The **delay** variable is normally set to 30 by Qdos. This is an arbitrary value which provides the delay which will occur before auto-repeat starts when a key is held down. The bigger the value, the greater the delay. If you perform the statement **POKE-W 163980,60** and then hold down an entry key, it will take twice as long before the key entry starts to auto-repeat – too long in fact.

If you try the statement **POKE-W 163980,1** and then hold down a key, you will start auto-repeating straightway. The trick now is how to enter the next command (**POKE-W 163980,30**) without getting double – or more – characters as you type. Hit each key as fast as you can, like fast staccato on a piano, or re-set the QL.

The **frequency** value is best understood by considering the value to be an arbitrary delay between key repeats once auto-repeating has started. So the bigger

the value the slower will keys be auto-repeated. Try **POKE-163983,1** and hold

location default 163980 30 163982 2

down a key.

Unwanted key repeats on the new-style keyboards can be a problem due to key bounce, key sensitivity and line echo problems in the hardware. Solving the problem will be a mixture of playing with the previous two values and adjusting you typing habits.

### Dat brudder don't do no work

Thank you for the program – page 43, July edition – to enable data to be exported from the Brother EP-44 to the QL but unfortunately line 130 will not load. I have been able to overcome this by substituting OPEN–NEW for OPEN NEW but the "NOT FOUND at LINE 130" flag still appears.

Others, no doubt, have

## Hotting up

I was very interested to read in the Trouble Shooter column the problems which seem to have been experienced with an interface and its impact on the screen. I have a JS QL and have bought from Eidersoft a PCML interface with expanded memory together wirh twin NEC disc drives.

Since using them we have experienced a very bad horizontal wobble on the first tenth of the top of the screen. It becomes increasingly worse as the computer is used during a session, so much so that it is difficult to read the text on the screen.

The monitor I am using is a TV/monitor made by Saba and I am enclosing a circuit diagram of this and would appreciate your advice on the connection between the 8-pin plug at the QL end, to the Scart connector at the TV end. It crosses my mind that I might not have it wired correctly which could be the cause of the problem. My only doubt about this possibility is that with my other QL, version AH, the combination of QL and monitor worked perfectly although if I then put the interface into the early version I start to get the wobble again.

Robin Gourlay, Hunsley, Hampshire.

If there is any one common cause for all the faults which occur with QLs, especially when interfaces are attached, it is heat. The QL has such a simplistic power supply with little regulation that it does not need much to upset the works. Coupled with this is the fact that the ULAs inside the QL do not have heatsinks stuck to the top of them. One reason, I suppose, is that there is very little height for such a convenience. Having said that, you may find the fault cures itself if you attach some aluminium heatsinks to the QL ULAs.

There is no doubt that I like the QL but I like the idea of the Sandy Q-XT640 upgrade kit even better. That kit gives the QL hardware room to breathe and also a good power supply. For the price of a box, a few connectors, an ABC Elektronic IBM-style keyboard and a new switched mode power supply you could build you own version of this kit – see figure one.

Admittedly the latter solution may seem a little dras-

# 一三二十二

written about this problem and so I look forward to seeing the corrected version.

> David Drysdale, Manchester.

I read the answer in the July issue on how to export documents from the Brother EP-44 to the QL. I was encouraged by your remarks, which suggested it was easy. It did not work for me.

A letter from Brother advised me always to use 'ser1c', rather than 'ser1'. I used both versions in line 120 without success. Also,

on line 130, the expression 'mdv2ep44doc' was changed to 'mdv2-ep44-doc'; the original expression was not accepted by the QL

interpreter. I do not know the reason. On the screen, at the top left, two or three 'chessboard' characters appear; normal text does not appear. What does it mean?

I have wondered if the lead - Tranform supplied it in December, 1985 - is at fault, i.e., it is not set to allow the passage of text from the EP-44 end. Perhaps it is a silly error on my part. Whatever the reason, I

would find the facility to export text a very useful one.

Patrick Kane, Motherwell.

I own a brother EP-44 and I do it, so I know that nothing is funny about the program. It is true that line 130 had a misprint and that underscore characters should have existed between 'mdvi', 'ep44' and 'doc', i.e., Mdv1ep44-doc, not mdv1ep-44doc. It is also possible that the lead supplied by Transform does not permit two-way communication. This is not a rarity in that most printer cable suppliers assume that you are printing and that the cable goes between a QL and a printer only. Printers, as you may well know, do not talk back.

The 'chessboard' characters imply to me that you have the baud rate or loader program wrong. Check all your channel numbers in the print statements and the values used in the select statement – see program in July issue. Needless to say the QL and the EP44/22 need to have the same baud rate and the EP44/22 must be in terminal mode.

Something not mentioned in the July issue, but probably obvious anyway, is that the EP22 does not work at 1,200 baud and therefore line 110 will need to be changed to either BAUD 75 or BAUD 300 depending on the state of the EP22.

# Financia

May I refer you to figure one, of your article in QL World, July. I am unable to get the program to work and I think there might be misprint(s) in the listing.

> A. Horsley, Barnsley.

The program mentioned is a procedure for printing out monetary values in fixed point notation and in a formatted manner. Horsley is correct in saying that misprints exist and I offer corrections. a) Line 120. No brackets () are required around the variable v.

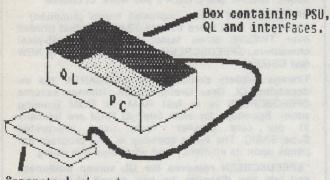
bracket ( should exist after the statement power 1E6. c) Lines 220, 230, 240, 250. All reference to '0' (in quotes or not) refer to the value zero, not the letter

b) Line 210. No left-hand

d). Line 250. The first right-hand bracket) should of course be a lefthand bracket ).

tic and expensive but you are left with an arguably more reliable machine having a professional-style keyboard. A third alternative is to remove the +9V tracking from the interface card where it connects with the

regulator. Obtain a second QL power supply, cut off the plug and solder the +9V DC power line and earth connection to the regulator pins or board tracking. In that way the board is powered separately from the QL.



Separate keyboard

Figure 1. Boxed version of QL

#### Machine repairs

My QL has developed a fault which I cannot easily afford to have repaired professionally. The «CTRL» key has stopped functioning and I am unable to use if for erasing, editing, pausing or interrupting listings or programs.

I find it tiresome to use the erase/rubout functions with Quill and Abacus whenever I mistype a word or figure and if I make a mistake when entering a listing the only way out from 'bad line' is to prefix the whole line with "PRINT ....' and then re-start the line. Since there does not appear to be any other fault, I wonder whether this is something which I can repair myself?

If not, is there a SuperBasic routine which will enable me to persuade the «ALT» key that it should act like «CTRL» and, if so, can I add it permanently to ROM or, at least, merge it with a boot routine so that it stays in RAM while the machine is powered-up?

Garvey Humphrey, Birmingham.

As you have no desire to enter the world of machine code I suggest that you have your QL keyboard repaired. If you think you have the necessary skills - i.e., you

can handle a screwdriver and push ends of cable wires into sockets - why not repair it yourself? If you telephone someone like Sector Software 0772 454328 and indicate your problem it will be able to inform you of which replacement pieces you need for your keyboard.

A keyboard membrane costs £6 and a bubble mat £3 inclusive of VAT and p&p.

# TECHINICAL HELPLINE

## Skyburst (as in tears?)

After many hours of inputting seven no. lines, with help at times from my two children, both enthusiastic but downhearted, *Skyburst* would not run, but printed 'error in line 1930': "continue" gave 'error in expression' for all poke lines, and line 80 was 'not found'.

I must be doing something incorrectly but do not know what. I have saved the program on Microdrive with «save mdv1-skyburst», but cry help to make it operate.

T Ross Bayho, Yeovil, Somerset.

After many hours of inputting the program, yes? More like weeks I should think. The problem you raise has some interesting points to note. Simon Ovenston included a very simple but sensible check in his machine code program listing. Each DATA line - lines 100 to 8480 - of his program holds six bytes of data and a byte total for those six bytes. If during any 'read data line' operation - see line 30 and 40 - the total is not correct you will get the message you have mentioned in your letter - i.e., error in line xxxx. At least you might.

The method chosen for error reporting, although helpful, is not foolproof. Suppose all your lines from 100 to 8480 are not numbered in increments of 10. The algorithm used for reporting the erroneous line number – see line 40 – will not work. So, even though it says 'error in line 1930', that may not be the case. Check that all your lines after line 100 have line numbers incremented by 10 every time.

Another fault could inveil itself if you have omitted a line. It is very easy to do in a program of this size, particularly if you have not used the SuperBasic AUTO command to edit the lines in the first place. For every line missing, the error report will be out by one line. Check that all your lines exist.

I would not recommend using 'continue' after the program has reported an error because of the nature of the program. Get rid of any error found and then run the program again, from line 205. Make sure that you have reserved the number of bytes specified, 5,034.

In conclusion and despite its failings, the check method used by Ovenston is quick and easy to create. It would be extremely helpful if more people who wrote machine code programs would follow his example.

The cost of your repair can therefore be minimal and nothing like the £25 or more some companies charge for any repair.

Alternatively, as Christmas is approaching, why not think about upgrading you QL to one of the 'professional' keyboards. Admittedly this is expensive but worth a thought if you use your QL a good deal, especially with the Psion package.

#### **Personal Note**

This is my last Technical Helpline Column. I would like to thank all those readers who have written to me. I am sorry that space restrictions dictate that only a small selection of letters can be printed. I hope that the problems and solutions which appeared have been useful.

Colin Opie.

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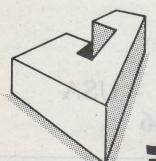
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# Personages

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# **Program of the month**

Yahtzee by Jason Price

ahtzee is a version of the well-known dice game for one to three players. Each player has 13 turns through each game. At each turn the player must first roll the dice by pressing any key you will be prompted. They must then decide which dice to keep or hold and which dice to throw again or roll. They then decide which dice to

ahtzee is a ver- roll and hold for a third sion of the and final throw.

After the third throw, they must decide into which of the boxes the score will go. At the end of the game, when all the players have had 13 turns, the computer calculates the final scores and displays them. The winner is the player with the highest score.

The 13 boxes consist of ones, twos, threes, fours, fives, sixes, three of a

kind, three dice are the same — four of a kind, full house — three of one number and two of another — low straight — a run of four, e.g., 3,4,5,6 or 1,2,3,4 — high straight — a run of five, e.g. 2,3,4,5,6 — five of a kind, and chance — the dice are added together.

The game may seem complicated but after playing it twice you will find it easy.

To keep or hold a dice

press "h" into which the score should go, use the spacebar to position the arrow so that it points at the required box and then press another key, e.g., ENTER. Prompts are given throughout the program.

Make sure that the computer is not in capitals mode when it begins to run the program, as the program searches for lower-case characters.

```
100 REMark
110 REMark
             ***
                                                 ***
120 REMark
             ***
                  Vahtzee
                                                  ***
130 REMark
             ***
                               By Jason Price.
                                                 ***
140 REMark
             ***
                  B13 , SFC
                                                  ***
150 REMark
160 REMark
             ***********
170 REMark
180 RESTORE : CLEAR
190 DIM H(5), DV(5), C(13), F(3,13), SC(3,13)
200 LET BL$=
210 SCREEN: GAME: RUN
220 DEFine PROCedure SCREEN
    MODE 4: SCALE 256,0,0: PAPER 0: CLS
OVER 1: LET T$= "YAHTZEE"
FOR Y=0 TO 2
230
240
250
      FOR X=170 TO 173
260
270
       CSIZE 3,1: CURSOR X,Y: CO= 3
       FOR LOOP= 1 TO 7
280
        LET CO= CO+2: IF CO= 9 THEN CO= 3
290
300
        INK CO: PRINT T$ (LOOP);
310
       END FOR LOOP
320
      END FOR X
```

```
330
      END FOR Y
      CSIZE 0,0: AT 10,24: INK 2: OVER 0
PRINT "HOW MANY PLAYERS ( 1 - 3 ) ?"
340
350
      REPeat K
360
370
       LET Q=RND (10)
       LET K$= INKEY$

IF K$= "1" OR K$="2" OR K$= "3" THEN EXIT K
380
390
400
      END REPeat K
410
       LET NO PLAY= K$
      AT 10,24: PRINT BL$
FOR Y= 5 TO 15
420
430
440
        READ P$: AT Y,1 : INK 7: PRINT P$
450
        READ PS: AT Y, B : INK 4: PRINT PS
        READ PS: AT Y,37: INK 7: PRINT PS
460
       READ P$: AT Y,51: INK 4: PRINT P$
END FOR Y
470
480
490
       INK 2
       FOR Y= 51 TO 200 STEP 12.95
LINE 0,Y TO 190,Y: LINE 205,Y TO 425,Y
500
510
       END FOR Y
520
      LINE 0 ,51 TO 0 ,194
LINE 190,51 TO 190,194
LINE 288,51 TO 288,194
530
540
550
       LINE 424,51 TO 424,194
```

## P-R O-G-S

```
LINE 205,51 TO 205,194
       LINE 340,51 TO 340,194
LINE 43 ,51 TO 43,194
 580
 590
       LINE 105,51 TO 105,194
 600
       INK 4: AT 19,61: PRINT "By J.R.Price."
FOR LOOP= 1 TO 5: DICE LOOP: END FOR LOOP
 610
 630 END DEFine SCREEN
 640 DEFine PROCedure DICE(D)
      BLOCK 31,24,40*D-2,163,4,7
 650
       LET DV(D) = RND(5)+1
 660
 670
       IF DV(D) = 1 OR DV(D) = 3 OR DV(D) = 5 THEN
        BLOCK 3, 3, 40*D+12, 174, 0
 680
 690
       END IF
       IF DV(D) <>1 THEN
 700
 710
        BLOCK 3,3,40*D+5,168,0
 720
        BLOCK 3,3,40*D+18,180,0
 730
       END IF
 740
       IF DV(D) >3 THEN
        BLOCK 3,3,40*D+18,168,0
BLOCK 3,3,40*D+5,180,0
 750
 760
       END IF
 770
 780
       IF DV(D)=6 THEN
 790
        BLOCK 3,3,40*D+5,174,0
BLOCK 3,3,40*D+18,174,0
 800
 810
       END IF
 820 END DEFine DICE
 830 DEFine PROCedure ROLL
       FOR LOOP= 1 TO 5
FOR N= 1 TO 10
 840
 850
         IF H(LOOP) = 1 THEN EXIT N
 860
 870
         DICE LOOP: BEEP 30,10*LOOP
 880
        END FOR N
890
      END FOR LOOP
 900 END DEFine ROLL
 910 DEFine PROCedure COMPLETE
      INK PL*2: AT 3,0: OVER 0: PRINT "PLAYER ";PL
AT 3,15: PRINT "PRESS ANY KEY TO COMMENCE."
AT 17,43: PRINT "PRESS ANY KEY TO COMMENCE."
FOR A= 1 TO 5: LET H(A)= 0: END FOR A
 920
930
940
950
960
       REPeat LOOP
970
        IF INKEY$<>"" THEN EXIT LOOP
980
       END REPeat LOOP
990
       AT 3,15: PRINT "SPINS REMAINING = 2
 1000
        AT 17,43: PRINT BL$
1010
1020
        FOR LO= 1 TO 2
1030
        HOLD
1040
         AT 3,15: PRINT"SPINS REMAINING = ";2-LO
1050
         ROLL
1060
        END FOR LO
1070
        CHECK
1080
        CHOOSE
1090 END DEFine COMPLETE
1100 DEFine PROCedure HOLD
1110
       FOR A= 1 TO 5: LET H(A) = 0: END FOR A
       FOR CO= 1 TO 5
INK PL*2: OVER 0: AT 3,15
1120
1130
       PRINT "(H) OLD OR (R) OLL DICE ";CD
AT 17,41:PRINT"H TO HOLD DIE, R TO ROLL IT"
CURSOR 40*CO+10,189: PRINT "?"
1140
1150
1160
1170
        REPeat LOOP
         LET KEY$= INKEY$
IF KEY$= "h" OR KEY$= "r" THEN EXIT LOOP
1180
1190
         END REPeat LOOP
1200
          CURSOR 40*CO, 189
1210
        IF KEY$= "h" THEN H(CO)= 1: PRINT "HELD"

IF KEY$= "r" THEN H(CO)= 0: PRINT "ROLL"
1220
1230
1240
       END FOR CO
1250
       AT 3,15: PRINT BL$
       AT 19,5: PRINT BL$
1260
1270
       AT 17,41: PRINT BL$
1280 END DEFine HOLD
1290 DEFine PROCedure CHECK
       FOR A= 1 TO 13: LET C(A)= 0: END FOR A
1300
       FOR LC= 1 TO 5
1310
        LET C(DV(LC)) = C(DV(LC))+DV(LC)
1320
1330
        LET C(13) = C(13) + DV(LC)
1340
       END FOR LC
1350
       FOR LC= 1 TO 6
        IF C(LC) >2*LC THEN C(7) = C(13)
1360
1370
        IF C(LC) >3*LC THEN C(8) = C(13)
1380
        IF C(LC) >4*LC THEN C(12) = 50
1390
       END FOR LC
       IF C(7)= 0 OR C(8)<>0 THEN GD TD 1440 FOR LC= 1 TO 8
1400
1410
1420
        IF C(LC) = 2*LC THEN C(9) = 25
1430
       END FOR LC
```

```
1440
         C(11) = 40
        FOR LC= 1 TO 6

IF C(LC)>LC THEN C(11)= 0
 1450
 1460
 1470
         END FOR LC
 1480
         IF C(1) = 0 AND C(6) = 0 THEN C(11) = 0
         IF C(1) <>0 AND C(2) <>0 AND C(3) <>0 AND C(4)
 1490
         <>0 THEN C(10) = 30
 1500
         IF C(5)<>0 AND C(2)<>0 AND C(3)<>0 AND C(4)
         <>0 THEN C(10) = 30
 1510
         IF C(5)<>O AND C(6)<>O AND C(3)<>O AND C(4)
         <>O THEN C(10) = 30
 1520 END DEFine CHECK
 1530 DEFine PROCedure CHOOSE
 1540
        AT 3, 15: PRINT "CHOOSE THE BOX FOR THE DICE."
 1550
         AT 17,41: PRINT "SPACE TO MOVE THE ARROW,";
AT 18,41: PRINT "THEN ANY KEY TO SELECT BOX.
 1560
 1570
         LET P=1: OVER 0: INK 7
         IF P<7 THEN CURSOR 205,40+10*P
IF P>6 THEN CURSOR 205,40+10*(P-6)
 1580
        IF F(PL,P)= 1 THEN GO TO 1710
IF P<7 THEN PRINT "8": ELSE PRINT "9"
 1610
 1620
         REPeat KEY
         LET KEY$= INKEY$
IF KEY$<>"" THEN EXIT KEY
 1630
 1640
 1650
         END REPeat KEY
 1660
         BEEP 10,5*P
         IF P<7 THEN CURSOR 205, 40+10*P
 1670
        IF P>6 THEN CURSOR 205,40+10*(P-6)
PRINT "
 1680
 1690
        IF KEY$<>" " THEN 80 TO 1730
 1700
 1710
        LET P= P+1: IF P= 14 THEN LET P= 1
 1720
         GO TO 1580
        LET SC(PL,P)= C(P)
AT 17,41: PRINT BL$: AT 18,41: PRINT BL$
IF P<7 THEN CURSOR 114+32*(PL-1),40+10*P
IF P>6 THEN CURSOR 360+32*(PL-1),40+10*(P-6)
 1730
 1740
 1750
 1760
 1770
        OVER 1: INK PL*2: PRINT SC(PL,P)
 1780
        LET F(PL,P) = 1
 1790
        AT 3,15: OVER 0: PRINT BL$
 1800 END DEFine
 1810 DEFine PROCedure GAME
        FOR GOS= 1 TO 13
FOR PL= 1 TO NO_PLAY
 1820
 1830
 1840
          COMPLETE
 1850
          END FOR PL
 1860
        END FOR GOS
 1870
        AT 3,0: OVER 0: PRINT "GAME OVER"
1880
        SCORES
 1890 END DEFine GAME
 1900 DEFine PROCedure SCORES
 1910
       FOR PL= 1 TO NO_PLAY
 1920
         LET TOT= 0:LET TOT2= 0
         FOR LC= 1 TO 6
 1930
 1940
          LET TOT= TOT+SC(PL,LC)
 1950
         END FOR LC
 1960
          INK PL*2: OVER 1
         CURSOR 114+32*(PL-1),120: PRINT TOT
 1970
         CURSOR 114+32*(PL-1),130
IF TOT>62 THEN PRINT "35'
IF TOT<63 THEN PRINT "0"
1980
1990
                                      "35": TOT= TOT+35
2000
         CURSOR 114+32*(PL-1),150: PRINT TOT
2010
2020
         FOR LC= 7 TO 13
          LET TOT2= TOT2+SC(PL,LC)
 2030
2040
         END FOR LC
         CURSOR 360+32*(PL-1),130: PRINT TOT2
2050
2060
         LET TOT2= TOT2+TOT
2070
         CURSOR 360+32*(PL-1),150: PRINT TOT2
2080
        END FOR PL
2090
        AT 3,15: PRINT "PRESS 'C' TO CONTINUE"
2100
        REPeat LOOP
2110
         IF INKEY$="c" THEN EXIT LOOP
        END REPeat LOOP
2120
2130 END DEFine SCORES
2130 END DEFINE SCURES
2140 DATA "ONES", "ADD ONES", "3 OF A KIND"
2150 DATA "ADD DICE", "TWOS", "ADD TWOS"
2160 DATA "4 OF A KIND", "ADD DICE"
2170 DATA "THREES", "ADD THREES", "FULL HOUSE"
2180 DATA "SCORE 25", "FOURS", "ADD FOURS"
2190 DATA "LOW STRAIGHT", "SCORE 30", "FIVES"
```

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# ABCElectronic

Andreas Budde Hogelsh, 10 + 12 D-4800 Bielefied West Germany

tel: 0521/890381 telex: 932974 budde d telefax: 0521/61412

#### 1. POINTER'S TOOLKIT

Pointer's Toolkit is intended to be a complementary toolkit for QJUMP's Super Toolkit II and/or QRAM or for Sandy's SuperQBoard with mouse. Naturally you can use it also without any of this hard software. It contains a background string-exchange command, for example, a command to kill all currently running jobs, a function which works like INPUT, but you may give a pre-defined text to edit (like the input used by PSION), a new RESPR which never returns not complete, even if there are jobs running, a monitor-save-job, and, if you have a command called POINTER or a file called PTR-IMI or PTR-KBD (from QRAM), there are commands which give you access to the pointer and real pull-down-windows from SuperBASIC!

#### WRITER'S TOOLKIT

Writer's Toolkit gives you new fonts (no normal QL Fonts), which you can use to write anywhere to the screen (with the new command WRITE). The new fonts include Old English, Antiqua, Helvetica, (and more) in different sizes. Fonts with a height of 8, 12, 16, 20, 24, 32 etc. are also possible. Now you can forget the ugly CSIZE 3, 1 QL fonts; Writer's Toolkit gives you beautiful fonts which you can use for example to make overlays for disk-labels. All fonts are defined as proportional, so Writer's Toolkit gives you not only nice looking fonts but also a nice face.

PRICE: 15£ PREIS 45,- DM

#### 2. QL-BUS

Plug in your QL-Bus buffercard and the Expansions Port of your Sinclair QL enlarges from one to five slots with the possibility of an aditional power supply. Apart from the Miracel Trump Card it can be used with

- \* CST Floppy Disc interface
- \* CST SCSI Floppy interface
- \* Sandy Super QBoard
- \* Sandy 512k memory expansion
- \* Miracel 512k memory expansion
- \* QEP III E-Prommer
- \* and all interfaces using the QL-Standards

PRICE: 98£

PREIS: 298,- DM

#### 3. DOT SCIENCE + SCREENCOPY

This program, which enlarges your QDos, is usable for all scientifical and mathematical texts. It can be used with all standard software programs even your own basic programs. You need no special codes to work with it because the BOOT program loads all files and programs after checking the necessary parameters. The possibility of using several characters – for example greek letters, chemical and mathematical formulas is no longer a problem. All additional and of course the normally used characters can be printed on a EPSON compatible printer.

Screencopy enables the screen to be copied in four forms and different grey colours to a dot matrix printer. It is unimportant in which application you work, any pixel of the whole screen (512 256 pixels) is printed without loosing any contents! You have to press CTRL»S only!

PRICE: 29£

PREIS 89,- DM

### Order form Floppy = 31/2" 2 × 80 Track

	Item	Price		Floppy	Cartridge
1	Pointer's Toolkit Writer's Toolkit	£15	DM45,-	201 tourse and re	learthfurn
2	QL-Bus	£96	DM298,-	0 1	any Learned
3	Dot Science Screencopy	£29	DM89,-		It is or testables the of your malin

Name and address

Cheque, credit transfer to Postgirokonto Dortmund Nr. 90283–469 C.o.D (only in Europe (not UK, Spain, Greece, Northern Ireland)

Accepted, £ = export prices

# MICRODRIVE

### THE PROGRAMS

**Author** 

Language Program Name Price

1. Giles Todd

DIY

**Assembler** 

Feaured in the March to June 1985 issues of *QL User*, this complete two-pass assembler will assemble all 68008 code and support the assembler directives DRG, END, EQU, DC and DS.

2. Richard Cross

A+O

B

Mini Monitor £3

Using approximately 3K of RAM, this handy utility will multi-task on your QL, leaving plenty of room for other programs. Commands include dumping registers, memory — and ASCII — machine code trace, register store, memory move, memory store — byte, word and long — and jumps. Featured in *QL User*, Octrober 1985.

3. A Didcock

Connect4

A SuperBasic version of the classic four-in-a-row game where counters drop down slots in the vertical board. First printed in QL User, September 1985.

4. Shergold

Golf

With up to 50 courses of varying difficulty, lakes, rivers, bunkers and trees, this is a fine golf simulation. You decide the power and direction of each stroke, striving for a birdie, eagle or even an albatross. Your scorecard may be saved. This program was printed in the May 1985 issue of *QL User*.

5. Williams

A+0

Paladin

£5

& Holliday
Written completely in machine code, this excellent Space Invaders game was the basis of our games programming series,

6. Richard

M+B

Sprite

£2

**Animation** 

This contains two programs from the April 1985 issue. The first is a SuperBasic multi-coloured sprite designer. The second contains machine code routines to animate the sprites on the

7. Steve Deary B

Pacman

A well-written maze game from the March 1985 issue. Almost 20 screens of increasing difficulty, including an invisible maze, make it a very versatile rendition of the arcade favourite.

8. Andy

B

Family Tree £3

Carmichael Based on an article in the August 1985 issue, this is an Archive program and database for setting-up and displaying large family

9. James Lucy L Composer £3
Completed in *QL User*, October 1985 this QLiberated program will allow you to compose, play and amend your own melodies. The program will handle sharps, vary tempo, and even specify staccato and legato playing styles.

10. Matthew

**Miners** 

This interesting simulation, printed in the August 1985 issue, puts you in the role of the NCB, buying and selling coal and mines, hiring and firing miners, and raising or decreasing wages to match economic forces. The object is to be profitable but inexperienced players will find it difficult even to remain solvent.

11. PJSmith

DIY

Adventure

From the February 1985 issue, this skeleton program requires you to slot in the details to create your own adventure programs.

12. R Green

B

**Othello** 

This classic board game, printed in *QL User*, August 1985, can be played by one or two players. The display uses a 3D representation of the board. Average response time by the computer opponent in the board. nent is about 15 seconds.

13. S J Ackers S Touch Type £4

This program consists of a 13-lesson course for typing-in letters, words and phrases, a 700-word vocabulary, an interactive keyboard display and a fingering chart inas more than 30K of code. Scores are displayed based on the time and accuracy of typing. A reduced version of the program was printed in the August 1985 issue.

14. Rob

A+O

FCODY

Sherratt

The first part of this program was printed in the March 1986 issue of QL World. The program is an ultra-fast, general-purpose file spooler.

15. Alan Prior B

World Map £2

From the March 1986 issue, this program will draw a full-screen, multi-coloured map of the world for geography buffs.

16. J M Dower B Mushyman £2
Printed in the June and July 1986 issues, this provides speedy
SuperBasic arcade action as you munch your way round the screen.

17. Tony Quinn S CAD QL £4
CAD design programs are particularly suited to the QL. This version from the September 1986 issue includes features such as rubber-banding and a user-definable symbol library.

18. Stuart Campbell

M+B Attack of the £3

**Things** Typical science fiction horror arcade action as yet more nasties descend on harmless QL owners. Featured in the October 1986

19. Karl Jeffery M+B

Starport

2001 Fast machine code action in this November 1986 version of the Galaxians arcade game.

20. Marcus

QL Go

Jeffery
The oriental game of Go is so complex that even mainframe programs are easily beaten by novice players. To the best of our knowledge, this 15x15 version from the April and May 1986

21. JP Hartley B Britain £2

Another program for geography buffs from the November 1986 issue of *QL World*. This is a round-Britain geography quiz.

22. KBG

**Darts** 

Judson

Program of the Month from December 1986. This popular pub pastime requires good hand and eye co-ordination to stop a moving cursor on the on-screen board.

# 3/46-1741

KEY

23. Neil Taylor

Assembler and Object Code
Machine Code and Basic Loader

Assembler and Basic Loader and Object Code

Supercharged QLiberate -

Window Designer

This useful routine from the February, 1987 issue allows you to design your SuperBasic windows using the cursor keys. It creates a one-line procedure which, when merged into your program, will re-create that window.

24. JF

Design 3D

24

Tydeman Published in the March and April 1987 issues, this program will allow you to produce 3D screen designs with the minimum of fuss and aggravation.

25. D Carmona B

**Stellaris** 

£4

Program of the Month from June 1987. This is an extensive real-time space adventure game against the computer, including economic simulations, lunar landing and superb graphics.

26. Robert Noble

A+B+O Video

Effects Box1

These machine code SuperBasic extensions allow you to manipulate your screens, save and recall them from memory and clear them in interesting ways. Program of the Month for July

£3

27. HR Pendry B Pontoon £3
A graphic version of the classic card game. You play against the computer. Features include changing banker on royal pontoons, accurate betting, five card tricks and so on. Printed in the July 1987 issue of *QL World*.

28. Kenneth

**Picture** Puzzle

£2

Cameron This short but interesting program from the July 1987 issue sets up an 8 x 8 sliding block puzzle with on-screen graphics. You can select sliding numbers or load your own picture to solve.

29. Peter

B

Bridge

£4

**Etheridge** An excellent version of this popular card game. Features include accurate computer bidding, automatic or manual play, replay hands, correct scoring, save and load positions and much more. Essential for card enthusiasts.

30. Charles Gerrard

Psycho

€4

We must apologise but we have had to remove this program temporarily from microdrive exchange. People who have sent orders will have their money refunded and details will appear as soon as the program is again available.

31. B Otridge

Crossword £5

Sold originally as a commercial program, this is the perfect aid for crossword fanatics. The program provides access by word length to a dictionary of about 12,500 words, to help solve those elusive crossword clues. Note: This program requires two Microdrive cartridges.

32. Phillip

Advent2

£4

SuperBasic arcade adventure with a humorous slant. A variety of rooms, robots and problems will keep you on your toes. Full instructions included.

B 33. Leslie

Clock

£3

Fahidy

This is a complete version of the clock program, described in the June and July 1987 issues of our QL Education series. An onscreen clock can be used to set or read the time.

34. E. Bamber

QL Con-

version/

Calculator

Comprising weights and measures units conventions and reverse Polish calculation, this excellent utility will convert almost anything to anything. Completely menu-driven, it is very easy to use.

**35. John** 

**Qwhist** 

£3

Wakefield

August 1987 Program of the Month. It is an excellent lementation of the classic card game, Whist. Designed for pla /er (south) who partners a computer hand (north) against computerised east and west opponents. im

36. Stanley

B

Mail Merge £1

Sykes

This cartridge contains very handy utilities providing a mail merge and labeller for Quill files. The cartridge includes a simple

The Double £4 37. P.G. Ives B

A large strategy game in which you manage a football team through the four league divisions. The program features buying and selling, team line-up, morale, and so on, through the full league and F.A. Cup season. The cartridge includes full instructions Quill document showing how to play the game.

38. Leslie

B

Education

£2

As part of our series of educational programs, this is designed to help teach the solution of simple linear equations. It is aimed specifically at the 11-plus age range.

39. JFTydeman S Design 3D £4
Featured in the March, 1987 issue, this extensive program includes a large suite of graphics and filing utilities for the prodduction of 2D and 3D graphics. It is supplied complete with instructions in the form of a Quill document.

40. Santiago

B

Roulette

£3

Our September, 1987 Program of the Month, this is an excellent Spanish/English version of the traditional gambling game. It also includes the Leigh Pattern, a system to break the bank.

41. Leslie Fahidy B Money £2
Continuing with our series of educational programs, this one sends you on a shopping expedition, calculating prices from shopping lists and trying to determine what coins you will receive as change.

42. Neil Davidson A+B+OLife

A machine code version of the classic simulation of a colony of living cells which survive, reproduce or die according to mathematical rules. Quill instructions included.

See over page for order form.



for the necessary nine parts of Squidge's rocket. October, 1987  Program of the Month.  44. David Marsh B Compress £2 Compress is a utility to compress SuperBasic program files into a more compact form without losing the structure of the program. That uses less storage space and means slightly faster loading.  45. Ronnie M+B SuperBreak- £2 Davidson A fast machine code version of the classic wall game where, using a bat and ball, you must try to break through the wall of bricks. Special features include optional double bats and/or balls.  46. Norman Marks B Navigator £2 To calculate the distance and direction for travel between longitude and latitude positions on the Earth. The program includes an expandable list of cities on points can be input manually. The calculation formulae can be seen from within the program.  47. Richard B 3D Maze £2 Clements Chase round the generated maze, shown in three dimensions, searching for the key to the next level before going through the exit. Extra noints can be gained by necessor as ear Paint Sun the gainer by necessor search site Sun to go the service of Sun to use.  49. Charles Dillon A November, extention allow tionaries on e new words to be new words to be seen from where, and debits, date much more.  50. Jay Lewington This well-written keep track of a and debits, date much more.  51. A Didcock Space is big. The calculations.  TO ALL CONTRIBUTOR.	oular dice a	Yahtzee	£2
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Please copy on to Microdrive the programs above which I have indicated by their 'ID' numbers. I enclose a cheque/PO to the value of  $\mathfrak{L}$ ...... made payable to *Sinclair QL World*. I understand that *Sinclair QL World* undertakes to supply only these programs — copied on to Microdrive — and accepts no liability for their operation as defined by the author. Neither can *Sinclair QL World* supply additional information about any of the programs other than that originally printed or supplied. Any article reprints must be ordered and paid for separately at  $\mathfrak{L}2$  each inclusive of post and packing —  $\mathfrak{L}3$  overseas.

43. Alan

S

**Qsquidge** 

£2

#### **OKOLOKO ENGINEERING SOFTWARE**

8380 GLENDALE DRIVE, YPSILANTI, MICHIGAN 48198 U.S.A. Tel: (313) 485-1926

At last the engineering software for "FRAME", "TRUSS", and "GRID" analyses are here to put the QL computer, ZX 48K Spectrum, and the TIMEX/SINCLAIR TS 2068 computers to work for the Consulting Engineering Design Firm, the Civil/Structural Engineer, the Mechanical Engineer and the Engineering Student. Each software comes with excellent Documentation and three versions (TS 2068 and ZX 48K Spectrum only) for use with a 32 column printer, a standard 80 column printer, and a screen monitor. The QL software contains one version for use with a standard 80 column printer or a screen monitor.

1. "FRAME" + Manual 1. "TRUSS + Manual 3. "GRID + Manual 4. "SPREAD FOOTING DESIGN" 5. "REAINING WALL DESIGN"	\$75.00 70.00 70.00 70.00 70.00 100.00	48K Spectrur \$120.00 110.00 100.00	n (W/GRAPHICS) (W/GRAPHICS)	
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## MICRODRIVE **EXCHANGE**

continued

#### THE ALL-NEW MICRODRIVE EXCHANGE

Microdrive Exchange has always been a popular feature of Sinclair OL World and, in our constant efforts to improve the magazine, we are expanding the Exchange to bring you even more quality programs at budget prices.

To achieve those results we have altered the format of the Exchange. Rather than calculating the number of sectors required by each program and sending the appropriate number of cartridges, we have now made it a one-program, one-cartridge system. So if you would like, say, four programs, then, regardless of length, you will need four cartridges.

There are a number of advantages to the system. First, the service will be much faster, because programs can be copied in advance. Second, rather than having to ensure having the article for documentation, we will be able to supply Quill documents on the Microdrive, if needed, for future programs.

Finally, for all new programs on the Exchange, rather than just receiving the machine code version, the Supercharged vversion or whatever, we will be able to supply assembly listings, hex loaders and original SuperBasic versions on the same cartridge, so that you can look at and amend programs.

Naturally, this service will require the transfer of more than the usual number of Microdrives but bear in mind that the number of Microdrives you send will be returned with the software.

We have reduced the price of Microdrives to £2 per cartridge.

With the new system, we have started to include programs which have not necessarily been featured in the magazine, either because they were too long or because we already had too many listings. Consequently we are now looking for quality programs of any length to feature in Microdrive Exchange. If you have any programs which you feel are good enough, please send them for review. The address and details for program submission is given in The Progs.

# Quest for the Dragon Sword

A challenging text adventure with a large vocabulary, hundreds of locations, masses of original puzzles and several sheep ...

"I laughed until I stopped!" - F.Baggins



# PYRAMIDE





### THE DESIGNER: DRAW WITH CONCEPTS!!

The Designer is not just another graphic drawing program for the QL, because the way of drawing is completely new: You first define basic shapes with the classical drawing functions, but then you can use them as many times, at the size, at the angle, at the position, at the colour you wish to create a new drawing! You can even define the finished drawing as another shape. The applications are multiple: Electrical engineering, easy setup of Diagrams, mechanical/technical drawings, special effects for artwork and many more!



#### SUPER CROUPIER: THE ULTIMATE CASINO SIMULATION!

Play Roulette, Baccara, Poker, Carta Alta, Blackjack and "One Arm Bandit" in only one Program! All the games loaded in memory (128K!) at the same time, complete graphic display of roulette, cards and slot machine. There is even a graphic display of your progress in the game. With \$10000 will you be able to beat the computer which is a very good gambler?



### MISTER SMITH CHALLENGING ARCADE IN FULL COLOUR!

You don't like paying taxes! You hate work! Your wife does not understand you! You are bored with your mistress! Your friends annoy you! So run as fast as you can to the nearest quiet corner . . . to dream. You are the king of the bubbles and they destroy anything that gets in your way. Maybe Mister Smith's dream is not different from yours . . .

**NUCLEON:** A utility Package with drawing, music, window, icon and text. This software comprises a suite of programs and tools (on two Microdrives) designed to reduce the labour involved in producing professional results in your own creations. Through AUTOMATIC code generation 100% Creativity and 0% Coding!

BAG OF TRICKS 1 AND 2: It consists of programs (games, utilities, basic keywords and more) coming on two cartridges plus a QUILL file explaining the use of each and on which you can find a newsletter as well. Some names: MINI-PAC-MAN, SNAKE-BYTE, QUICK-CLONE, SCREEN-COM-PRESS and much more!

**WANDERER:** For the first time, a game which uses the full power of the QL. Spatial effects, combined with fast animation. The objects will LEAP out of the screen! "Cult Game", "The only game worthy of the arcade tag", Sinclair User, "Undoubtedly one of the best games released for the QL" ZX Computing.

MORTVILLE MANOR: Mystery adventure game! Begin your investigation in a setting consisting of more than 85 full colour screens. The greatest danger of Mortville is its deadly charm; a house 'calm' in the eye of the storm. The first real graphic adventure for the QL! Supplied on two microdrives.

**QL PEINTRE:** This drawing program combines the best of all worlds: Icon driven for fast selection of main options and Help window with on-screen instructions of every stage. All the "standard" graphic functions and many more . . . The best value-for-money graphics package for the QL!

GRAPHIC TOOLKIT: Seventy new SuperBasic instructions written in 100% Machine code which will enhance greatly the graphic capacities of your QL. Some of the demo programs are by themselves worth he price of the whole package! Here some keywords: SHRINK, LINT, GRID, STORE, PLACE, COMP, MAG, ROTATE.

VROOM: A new challenging a race for QL with fast colour graphics and real racing circuits. See Jur care ogress on the map, don't leave the track or you will crast who a haver. Smoothly scrolling background, realistic noises! "And Jer HIT for PYRAMIDE", Sinclair User.

QL OTHELLO: ne ultimate Othello-Reversi game. Beautiful 3D representation of the board. 9 levels of play. Easy editing of the current game. Onscreen help. Your Move! Watch out ... "You would be hard pushed to find a better version of Othello on ANY MICRO", QL World.

PYRAMIDE ORDER FORM

MISTER SMITH

BAG OF TRICKS 1 & 2

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☐ NUCLEON
☐ GRAPHIC TOOLKIT

☐ MORTVILLE MANOR

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O QL OTHELLO

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### **PYRAMIDE SOFTWARE**

86 COMMERCIAL RD., PADDOCK WOOD, KENT. TN2 6DT 089 283 2952

\* XMAS OFFER ENDS 31st DECEMBER 1987



Q-Liberator release 3·1 is packed with advanced features that take SuperBASIC programming into a new dimension.

Now selected procedures and functions within any compiled program can be called by other programs - even interpreted ones. Your programs can become just like assembler extensions in the RESPR area. A unique OVERLAY command also lets you load libraries only when you need them.

Reclaim the space later with the UNLOAD command. With parameter passing, GLOBAL variables and FREE RUNNING PROCEDURES which run independently of the job that starts them you have a totally new programming environment.

All this is controlled by a configurable front end with online HELP for every facility. If you have QRAM then QLIB can be hotkeyed and mouse driven. Other features include \* ROMable code generation \* Automatic integer FOR NEXT loops \* Fast compilation \* and,

of course, all the facilities of release 2.

£59.95

#### COMPILER PRICE BREAKTHROUGH Q-LIBERATOR BUDGET VERSION

Not as fast and not as sophisticated as 3.1 but still a powerful tool that anyone can afford. Contains all the original Q-Liberator features like job control, error trapping, channel sharing, PIPES and no codesize limit. For benchmarks see QL World April 1987.

#### OLOAD & OREF

programs that dramatically cuts loading times. Even a 200K+ program loads in under a minute! The perfect complement to Q-Liberator, QLOAD has no restrictions on portability. Simply indispensable. QLOAD is a universal quick loader for SuperBASIC

QREF is a resident utility for cross referencing SuperBASIC programs with wildcard selection of variables, procedures, functions and machine code routines. Includes FIND facility for the EDIT command.

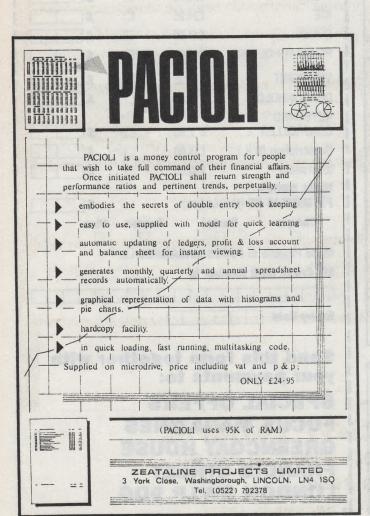
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Upgrade from REL 2 to REL 3	£10.00	Front Page Extra (GAP)	£37.95
Upgrade Budget to REL 3	30.00	QFLASH mdv	£12.00
OLOAD and OREF mdv	£9.95	QLOAD and QREF 3.5 flp	£10.95

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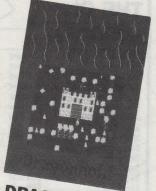
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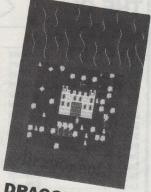
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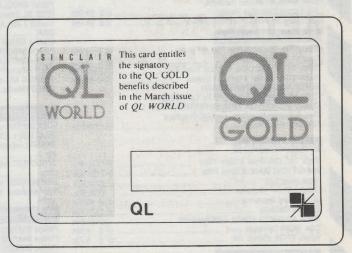
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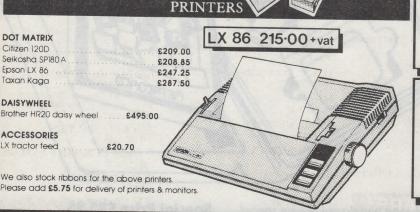
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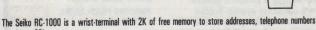
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